

FOR ALUMNI OF  
THE ACADEMIC  
CAMPUS OF  
VIRGINIA  
COMMONWEALTH  
UNIVERSITY

# STARTERS

## CONNECTIONS

SUMMER 1995



*faces of change*



### TRAVELERS' AIDS

VCU Alumni Association members get from 15 to 30 percent discounts at National, Avis, Hertz, Alamo and Budget. They have a 20 percent discount at Clarion Inn, Comfort Inn, Econolodge, Friendship Inn, Rodeway Inn, Sleep Inn, and Quality Inn.

Information is available in membership renewal and new member packets, or call VCU Alumni Association (804) VCU-ALUM (828-2586).

### YOU'RE COVERED

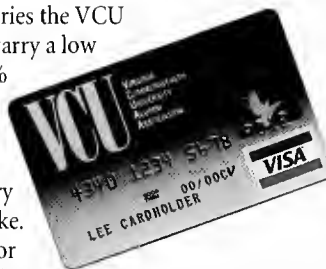
VCUAA offers a new, comprehensive major medical group health care plan to its members. Especially helpful those who are self-employed or work for small businesses, this plan also serves alumni of UVA, William and Mary, Duke, and Penn State. The plan has competitive premium rates and an excellent record for handling claims and cost containment. (Not available in VT, NH, NY, NJ, WA, OR and HI.) For information, call 1-800-922-1245.

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With First Union Bank, VCUAA offers a VISA card. The card carries the VCU mark—and you carry a low interest rate, 5.9% above prime. Your Alumni Association benefits with every purchase you make. For information or sign-up, call (800) 359-3862.



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Hit the fast track or do the stroll in these premium quality sports shoes for men and women. The white shoe with black and gold VCU Ram logo looks great, feels better, and supports your VCU Alumni Association. \$49.95 plus applicable sales tax, \$5 shipping per pair. Allow 2-3 weeks delivery. To order, call (800) 666-7852.



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Coming this fall, offered only through VCUAA. Snuggle up under this coverlet with drawings of historic buildings from both campuses. Proceeds directly benefit the Alumni Association Board Room in the Student Commons. Corporate orders are welcome. Cream and black, 50"x67", \$49 each.

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VCUAA offers a comprehensive package of group plans that can help with short-term emergencies or long-term needs. Gradmed short-term (60-180 days) can fill the gap between graduation and employee benefits or be the safety net during emergency loss of protection. Term Life is offered for nine months free to new graduates and as a paid policy to all alumni. For information on our new Major Medical coverage, see Association Exclusives. For more information or sign-up for these plans, call (800) 922-1245.

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Lose your class ring, or never got one when you were on campus? It's not too late to celebrate your achievements and connections at VCU. Rings come in five styles for women and four styles for men in 10K, 14K or 18K yellow or white gold. Prices from \$195-\$233 for women's rings and from \$240-\$489 for men's. Installment payment available. For a color brochure with complete ordering information, call (800) 424-1492.



## VCU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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*African American Alumni Council*

Marilyn M. Campbell '81BS/MC

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Shaffer Court Connections is a magazine for alumni and friends of the Academic Campus of Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. VCU is a public, urban university with an enrollment of 21,000 students on the Academic and Medical College of Virginia Campuses. The magazine is published by VCU Alumni Activities.

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# VCU

Virginia Commonwealth University

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An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative  
Action University

Congratulations on a terrific issue of *Shafer Court Connections*! The entire magazine—from cover to cover—is great. And the “All Our Children” article makes all of us in the School of the Arts proud.

I congratulate you and your staff and the writers, designers, photographers, etc. for your excellent work!

**John Bryan, Director of Sponsored Research and Development School of the Arts**

I was reading the latest copy of *Shafer Court Connections* and noticed your internet address. Would it be feasible to compile a VCU Alumni Internet directory?

**Thom Garrett '86BS/H&S**  
tgarrett@dsrnet.com

We are now asking for email addresses on alumni updates—and Thom's friends can contact him at the address above. Thanks. Good idea.

Each issue gets better and better. I read this last issue from cover to cover.

**Michelle McQueen '83BS/B**

Great magazine, folks! It's so much more informative and easier to read than the last format (which was bizarre!!).

Keep up the good work.

**Jim Crotty '71BS/H&S**

We've had some responses and further news following our last cover story, so it's time for—

## ALL OUR CHILDREN II:

*The Sequel*



Andrew Hawkes

I'm sending this information about my son Andrew Evan Hawkes, who was missed in your Fall 1994 issue about successful theater alumni. He lives in the Los Angeles area now, and is appearing in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* by Steve Martin at the Westwood Playhouse.

I am also sending in an VCU Alumni Association membership for him.

Sincerely,

**R.B. Hawkes**

**Andrew Hawkes '88BFA/A** also played a young street tough in *Never Come Morning* at Chicago's Prop Thtr last fall. One critic wrote that Hawkes “exhibited the animal intensity and muscularity of the youthful Brando.”

**Gary Swink** won a technical achievement academy award, the only one this year for a new lighting system. Swink's Kino Flo Portable, Flicker Free, High Output Fluorescent Lighting System eliminated the greenish tinge and visible flicker of other fluorescent systems. It's particularly useful for special effects process shots and has been used in hundreds of movies, including *Forest Gump*, *Pulp Fiction* and *Star Trek: Generations*.

**Aloma Denise Alber '83BS/MC** has been producing and promoting films, including the “Mad Maxish” sci-fi movie *Twilight of the Dogs* by director John Ellis.

**D. Shone Kirkpatrick '79BA/H&S** left for Hollywood in 1982 to write and direct. Independent producers have filmed his scripts for *Brothers in Arms* (1989) and *White Wolves: The Legend of the Wild*, which was released this spring. He is working on a CBS Schoolbreak Special on the Holocaust from the perspective of young people who lived and died at that time. *Through Their Eyes* will air in October. He has sold scripts to NBC and Warner Brothers and has also made several small films and documentaries and directed local

theater productions.

Credits for video animation artist **Theresa Ellis '83BFA/A** include the Energizer Bunny and Nike's “Hare Jordan.”

**Chris Watkins '64BFA/A** is the producer of *Unsolved Mysteries* and *America's Most Wanted*.

VCU has some screen presence itself. For a Federated Auto Parts commercial in May, VCU alumni made up most of the cast and crew. In June, the bad guys go after Charlie Sheen on Franklin Street and through the MCV tunnel from the parking deck to Main Hospital for *The Shadow Conspiracy*. Other films are scouting campus locations.

## SHAHER COURT CORRECTIONS

**Jeremy Conway '78BFA/A**, 1994 Alumni Star for the School of the Arts, is an alumnus of the Theatre Department, not the Department of Communication Arts and Design.

Contrary to our report of his death, **Walter Raines '69MS/E** is alive and well in Boonville, NC—in fact, mowing his lawn and still laughing when we called. He retired as vice president of Trident Technical College in Charleston, SC. His son Jeffrey and wife Lois run a family food service equipment company.

## THE WAY WE WERE

Always on top of the news, the 1948-49 *Proscript* staff—(from left) **Frances Stringfellow Stebbins '50BS/MC**, **Charles Stebbins '50BS/MC**, **Cornelia Wellman Friedman '51BS/MC** and **Eugene Wright** (standing in back), Professor **Richard Allen** and **Nikki Calisch Fairman '49BS/SW** (seated in front), and **Martele Sporn Wasserman '51BS/MC** (foreground)—captured the moment before they met President Harry Truman. For a look at the way we are, see pages 16-17.



# BRINGING MOTOROLA TO TOWN



Presidents talk often these days about the importance of higher education to economic development. But it is more than just talk, and the decision of Motorola, Inc.'s executives to build an electronics plant in Virginia's Goochland County speaks volumes.

That decision will mean more jobs for Virginians—high-skill, high-wage jobs for people with the right training and education.

To attract one of America's leading makers of semiconductors to Virginia, state and local government leaders worked in nonpartisan, cooperative fashion to put together an incentive package that includes a grant to develop the electronic manufacturing curriculum of Virginia Commonwealth University's new School of Engineering, which is scheduled to open in fall 1996.

The Goochland site is expected to employ about 5,000 people when it is fully developed. In the distant future, that number could be as many as 10,000. Motorola would like to draw about 80 percent of that workforce from a local pool of talent that could earn an annual average salary of \$35,000 per employee.

That's where higher education comes in. College-educated employees earn more on average than those with only a high school education. But more jobs also require at least some postsecondary education. Nearly every expert today predicts that half the U.S. workforce in the twenty-first century will consist of high-skill jobs, and that is probably being conservative.

Engineers lead this pack. Last year, 40 percent of the job offers to new graduates went to engineers even though they represented only 8 percent of all university graduates. According to the American Council on Education, nearly 80 percent of the doctorate-trained scientists and engineers in the workforce work in industry.

Ensuring that people can obtain the technical and general education needed for the future workforce is the motive behind VCU's new engineering school. Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University has been collaborating with VCU on the project. The State Council of Higher Education, the city of Richmond and the surrounding counties, numerous professional and industrial groups, the General Assembly, and the Allen administration all have gotten behind VCU's new school. Its supporters see it as critical to Virginia's economic development plans. Thanks to this community-wide support, we have raised nearly \$14 million of the \$23 million needed to establish the school. Without one in the region, it is clear that Motorola would have gone elsewhere.

Virginia's competitors, particularly North Carolina, make a major investment in higher education knowing that the gains lie in the future: a stronger industrial base and business community, greater technological capacity, and a better-trained workforce. The Motorola decision offers one of the best examples of the vitally important relationship between higher education and the quality of life of our communities.

EUGENE P. TRANI  
PRESIDENT



***Fundraiser.** Ask the people who know—and care. At a reception in the Student Commons in May, President Trani and Dr. Henry McGee, associate provost of engineering, met with alumni of VCU's Engineering Technology program to brief them on the progress of plans for the new School of Engineering and the impact of the Motorola decision.*





## GRACE UNDER PRESSURE

VCU President Eugene Trani will take a sabbatical this summer to finish a book exploring the presidency of Woodrow Wilson and the beginning of the Cold War. Dr. Grace Harris '60MSW/SW, provost and vice president for academic affairs, is acting president from June 15 to Aug. 31, and VCU can expect grace under pressure. Harris is looking forward to the summer. "The fun," she says, "will be putting my style and my stamp on the way things are done." Harris is the first African American president of VCU. (See our cover story, page 18.)

## VCU SCORES WITH CAA

Look for interstate athletic competition to heat up with VCU's new membership in the Colonial Athletic Association. The switchover from the Metro Conference ensures that the Rams will face off at least twice a year against the University of Richmond, William and Mary, George Mason, James Madison and Old Dominion Universities.

"We are very excited about joining the CAA," says President Eugene Trani. VCU's athletic director, Dick Sander, adds, "The CAA is one of the finest conferences in the country for baseball, field hockey and soccer—and playing in our own backyard will give our fans a great opportunity to support our conference play." CAA assistant commissioner and VCU alumnus Jerry Stone '66BS/E expects to see "some electricity in the crowds, not only for men's and women's basketball, but in many other sports. VCU offers our conference a

## PROFESSOR WILDER

Former Governor L. Douglas Wilder has joined VCU's faculty as a distinguished professor in the Center for Public Policy and begins teaching this fall. His first course, for upper-division undergraduates, focuses on Virginia government and national politics.

"In many ways, if you look at Douglas Wilder's career, you will see a lot of the values we want the Center for Public Policy to emulate," says Dr. Robert Holsworth, center director and chairman of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration. "In terms of moving from theory to practice, I don't think there is any other political figure in Virginia who has done so well over the years."

The Center for Public Policy addresses fundamental questions of public policy in teaching and research, polls citizens' attitudes, and will provide public policy training for state and local officials. Wilder looks forward to his new relationship with VCU and hopes that through the center, "we might effect some change" to serve the needs of the country and the state.

chance to associate with a quality institution and fine student athletes."

VCU's move from the Metro Conference is the result of Metro's major realignment, admitting five new schools. VCU and Virginia Tech were bumped, and the Metro agreed to pay the two schools a combined \$2.7 million for their equity in the conference.

## MASS COMM MOVES AHEAD

After a two-year national search, the VCU Board of Visitors appointed Joyce Wise Dodd as director of the School of Mass Communications during its March meeting. Interim director since July 1994, Dodd has already put the school on an even track and led it to reaccreditation by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications.

"The school has moved into a new era for the next phase of its growth and development," says Dodd. "The next decade will bring new enrollments, a curriculum for the future and new faculty members who will rocket VCU's mass communications program to the center of national attention and accomplishment."

To help accomplish this goal, the school's newly-established Alumni Council, together with the VCU Survey Research Lab, polled the school's graduates to determine how well the curriculum served them in getting and keeping jobs in the media. They will use the poll in planning the new curriculum scheduled to be approved by December 1995. Dodd is also leading a team of faculty, alumni, and advisory board members who are writing a

new strategic plan, positioning the school for cooperative arrangements with the new Center for Public Policy and the VCU HIV/AIDS Center.

In March, faculty also approved curriculum for a new Ad Center, which is being developed from the school's graduate program. The school, in cooperation with the university and regional and national advertising communities, plans to open the new Ad Center to students in Fall 1996.

## MAJOR ADVANCES

VCU's Board of Visitors has appointed Ann Creighton-Zollar, associate professor of sociology and anthropology and African-American Studies, as director of the African-American Studies

program. As interim director for more than a year, she led a task force on the feasibility of a major in African American studies.

Creighton-Zollar is now developing core courses, including African-American Social Thought and Modes of Inquiry in African-American Studies, and beginning to recruit faculty. Within five years, she says, "I think we will have created a bachelor's degree in African-American studies that is central to the mission of VCU as it enters the 21st century."

## TAKING THE FAST TRACK

"We believe a modern business school should put the principles of strategic management into practice," says Dr. Howard Tuckman, dean of VCU's School

## ONE OF THE BEST

VCU's Medical College of Virginia Hospitals (MCVH) has been named as one of the best medical care facilities in the United States and Canada by Gale Research. In the 1995 edition of *The Best Hospitals in America*, MCVH ranks in the top one percent of hospitals, one of 87 listed from a pool of more than 6000. Executive Director Carl Fischer says, "We are gratified and proud to have our physicians, nurses and staff recognized as excellent in the health care field."

The editors drew special attention to the level of patient satisfaction—90 percent were "very satisfied" with their treatment—and singled out several programs and facilities for recognition including the Massey Cancer Center, the MCV Heart Center, the Neurosciences Center, the organ transplant program, the Children's Medical Center, the Departments of Radiology and Radiation Oncology, the Temporomandibular Joint and Facial Pain Clinic, and the Dementia Clinic.

MCV Hospitals was also recognized in the February 20 issue of *Fortune* magazine as one of eight "great places for heart attacks." The article highlighted the Hospitals' comprehensive chest pain triage system, which has attracted attention from around the nation. The triage system is a multi-disciplinary collaboration among the emergency, cardiac, nursing and nuclear medicine sections at MCVH.



of Business. The school is already moving forward with its strategic plan to take a place in the competitive global economy.

Student access to the latest technology is a key element, and the Covington Organizational Communication Laboratory is already open for business. This facility, funded by local business woman Josee Covington, provides a multimedia classroom for instruction and learning in all undergraduate and graduate organizational communication classes. Faculty and students can

use state-of-the-art presentation techniques for individual or group settings.

Another aspect of the plan involves faculty development—essential to attract and retain the best educators and

researchers—like Dr. Van Wood, Philip Morris Chair of International Business (page 15). Three faculty have been honored by their national professional associations with awards for outstanding teaching in their fields. They are Dr. Randolph Barker (photo) in business communication, Dr. Ed Koffman in accounting and Dr. David Urban in marketing. The strategic plan also includes ongoing review of every course in the curriculum to make certain it is responsive to the needs of today's business environment. To ensure that VCU ranks high among other business schools, faculty are developing benchmarks like the Fast Track MBA program.

The Fast Track MBA puts a new twist on executive MBA programs. Rather than offering traditional business courses in fields like accounting and finance, VCU's new program offers its executive students six team-taught modules that integrate business theory and practice. A module on Organizational Culture, for example, draws faculty from information systems, management, marketing and decision science. "The business world is team-oriented," says Bill

Miller, director of the Fast Track MBA program. "Our students work in teams and bring different expertise and skills to their studies."

## SWISH, SWISH

This spring for the first time, Women's Basketball at VCU played in the post-season National Women's Invitational Tournament (WNIT) in March. (They lost their first two games and won the third.) In November the team gets a second first, playing in the pre-season WNIT, which will showcase 16 top women's basketball programs. "For us this is a very big deal," says Rams coach Susan Walvius, whose club jumped to a 19-8 record for 1995, following a 3-24 season in 1994.

## BACK IN THE DAY

VCU Libraries' Black History Archives Project is a cooperative effort by VCU, Virginia Union University, and the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia. The project's main purpose is to find and preserve the historical records of African Americans in Virginia so that those records will be available for the public to use and enjoy. The project hopes to advance community cooperation through a better understanding of regional history. It is the largest piece of the library's Multicultural Archives, which also includes information on Native American and Latino history and Asian and Muslim culture in Virginia. The archives are a key component of "Illusion vs. Reality," a joint library and teaching project in oral history and archival research, funded by a \$100,000 Ford Foundation grant.

The archives digitize and store information in a database that now includes records of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Richmond Crusade for Voters, Fourth Baptist Church, Gillfield Baptist Church and Astoria Beneficial Club. And that information is becoming more and more accessible.

"We are moving selected portions of the database to be retrievable through Open Text, a widely available software package

## HONORING OUR OWN

The university tipped its mortarboard to four of its own during February's annual Convocation ceremony.

Dr. Clifford Edwards, professor of religious studies, received the Distinguished Teaching Award; Dr. William Frable, professor of pathology, received the Distinguished Service Award; Dr. Kenneth Kendler, professor of psychiatry, received the Distinguished Scholar Award; and Dr. Melvin Urofsky, professor of history, received the University Award of Excellence.

Edwards specializes in non-Western religions and has been called "the best teacher I have ever had" by many of the students who have taken his courses on Zen Buddhism, The Bible as Literature and Psychology of Religion. Edwards gives about 30 lectures a year at schools, churches and other community organizations.

Frable is an internationally-known cytopathologist, who made Fine Needle Aspiration biopsy—a quick, accurate and cost-effective method—routine in diagnosing cancer. He continues an extensive 30-year teaching career, lecturing from Harvard University to Buenos Aires. Colleagues call his textbook in the field the standard and "one of the most lucid accounts."

Kendler's work on the genetics of schizophrenia has resulted in the publication of more than 100 papers, ongoing funding from the National Institutes of Health and coverage in papers such as the *Chicago Tribune* and the *New York Times*.

Urofsky is a specialist in American political and constitutional history and Jewish-American and Zionist history. He has written 30 books, including *Letting Go: Death, Dying and the Law*, published in 1993. Urofsky recently presented the lead lecture in a series on the U.S. Supreme Court during WWII, introduced by Chief Justice William Rehnquist. The series was sponsored by the Supreme Court Historical Society and the Library of Congress.



Dr. Clifford Edwards



Dr. William Frable



Dr. Kenneth Kendler



Dr. Melvin Urofsky

## DIVERSE IMAGES

Two VCU graduates introduced the work of faculty and alumni from the Department of Painting and Printmaking to a European art audience this spring at the Galerie Corti in Brussels. Susan Bergamo Corti '92BFA/A, the gallery's director, and her husband Stephan Corti '90MBA/B collaborated with chairman Michael Drought to bring "Diverse Images 1," faculty painting, drawing and prints, and "Diverse Images 2," works by recent alumni.

Susan says she and her husband felt that encouraging further ties with VCU was only natural considering the quality of work faculty and students produce. "There was also a very strong personal attachment to VCU that was important to both of us," she adds. In the European market, the Cortis find "a very real, strong demand for affordable art and a real desire to support young, emerging artists."

Corti also set up meetings with European art schools for Drought and Jim Bumgardner, professor of painting. They discussed faculty, student and exhibition exchanges with European colleagues in Brussels and Paris, as well as student recruitment. "The Europeans asked a lot of questions about our use of computer technology," Drought says. "They haven't done much of that. We are fortunate that the international reputation of the School of the Arts continues to generate new opportunities."

## VCU ENTERS AFRICAN TRADE

VCU has received a U.S. Information Agency grant for \$102,361 to help two African schools improve their ability to teach art. The program will establish mentorships between professors in VCU's School of the Arts



Susan Smith by E.R.P., digitally manipulated video still on Lazart paper.

and faculty members at two schools in Zimbabwe. Student Maggie Clayton demonstrated a loom for Arthur Mandimika (left) and Aaron Myobi-Ncube (right) who visited the Crafts Department in March to discuss the exchange. (Daniel Reeves, director of graduate studies in arts, is at far right). VCU faculty can introduce techniques like using computers in textile classes and emerging practices in fashion design. Zimbabwe

faculty will share their unique crafts, like stone carving, with VCU.

Because Zimbabwe's textile industry needs trained visual artists and art teachers, this program will have a significant impact on people's lives.

## ART DAZZLE, COOL NOTES

VCU's Anderson Gallery welcomes Virginia artists for an installation exhibit, "Projects." The artists are Federico Correa, Ralph Fleming, Susan Hankla, Laurel Quarberg and Ed Steinberg—showing June 2-Aug. 16. Fall begins with the Arts Faculty Show Aug. 31-Sept. 22 and Faculty Focus Sept. 29-Oct. 20. A dazzler is "Brilliant Stories," contemporary jewelry from 25 artists—four of them alumni—running Oct. 27-Dec. 23. The gallery is at 907 1/2 West Franklin Street, (804) 828-1522.

There's "Music, music, music!" at the VCU Performing Arts Center this summer and fall. The Guitar and Other Strings Festival runs through July, with five concerts July 7, 8, 14, 22, 23. The VCU Sunday series begins in September with six faculty concerts through the year. The Julliard String Quartet begins the year's Mary Anne Rennolds Chamber series on September 23. For tickets and schedules, call (804) 828-6776.

that will allow more users access," says Dr. John Whaley, coordinator of electronic archives at the VCU Libraries. "We expect to make excerpts from the database a VCU contribution to the Virtual Library of Virginia."

In January, the VCU athletic department donated part of the proceeds from its basketball game with Virginia Union to the Black History Archives Project. That contribution is funding electronic and personnel resources. Membership in VCU Friends of the Library is \$25. For information, write Laura Mauer, P.O. Box 842033, Richmond, VA 23284-2033 or call (804) 828-1116.

## BONE PASTE

Cast off those casts and itch no more. Clinical trials are in progress at MCV Hospitals to test a new "paste" that is injectable and hardens within ten minutes into a bone-like substance. According to *The Washington Post*, the material is a mineral blend similar to that found in real bone: carbonated hydroxyapatite. The compound is so close to natural bone that the body's bone-sculpting cells work upon it in the same way that the cells tear down and rebuild living bone. In time, these cells dissolve the synthetic bone and replace it with natural bone.

The MCVH trial will be limited to wrist fractures, but the creators of the substance, Norian Corp., hope to test it soon in hip fractures. Doctors in Europe are already using it for a variety of fractures.

## MYTH AND LEGEND

Any of his advertising students would tell you Dr. Jack Haberstroh is not a retiring type. True, after 25 years of getting the message across, he has left the School of Mass Communications for San Diego, planning "to be a beach bum, to surf and write."

But now one calls him "retiring." He's busy promoting his new book, *Ice Cube Sex*, about Sexsellsubliminal advertising. "I wrote it to debunk the notion that advertising is full of hidden messages," he says. "It doesn't exist. It doesn't work.

Professionals don't do it."

Haberstroh doesn't need it. His energy and off-beat humor go over as well on radio talk shows as they did in the classroom. This book and another, *The Pro Challenge*, 170 PR writing assignments, are selling well. The irrepressible Haberstroh has another book in the works already. *Anybody Can* is a book for Paul R professionals who want to teach.

Best memories of VCU? "My students who won 22 regional and 2 national professional awards," he smiles.



## NEW RECTOR

In May the Board of Visitors elected Stuart C. Siegel, CEO of S&K Famous Brands, the new rector of VCU. Siegel is the major donor and co-chairman of fundraising for the Stuart C. Siegel Convocation and Recreation Center planned for the Academic Campus

## BY THE NUMBERS

Like other universities in the United States and especially in Virginia, VCU is facing the related challenges of leaner budgets and increased competition for a fixed pool of students.

Virginia's support for higher education as a percentage of the total state budget has declined steadily in the past five years. The answer has been to ask students to pay a higher portion of the cost of their education while encouraging universities to review their curriculum, organization and business methods. VCU attacked the problem early and head-on with a strategic planning process that engaged the entire university, resulted in the dissolution of two schools and the creation of a new School of Engineering and an ongoing process of review and change. The university also hired KPMG Peat Marwick to evaluate its operating methods with the goal of reducing administrative costs by 15 percent.

During the past year, enrollment trends and state-mandated staff reductions have complicated



JOSEPH A. MANHOUT



the process but not deterred VCU from its mission. The prospective student pool from high schools has been level for several years; many of our students are working their way through school; and costs have steadily increased. All this has affected our enrollment. Total student numbers dropped from 21,854 in 1993 to 21,523 in 1994; the loss of 150 full-time undergraduates had the most impact. Admissions for Fall 1995 show an expected enrollment of 21,585.

Despite declining numbers, VCU is still attracting quality students and providing wide access for aspiring students willing to work hard for a chance to excel. In 1994-95, half of all VCU entering freshmen graduated in the top third of their class, their grades averaged at a B level, and their average SAT score matched the national average and exceeded the Virginia average.

The drop in the number of students has meant a \$3.7 million shortfall for the coming year, necessitating some immediate cuts and changes. In addition, more than 400 staff took advantage of the state's employee buy-out plan. Such rapid and unexpected fiscal and staff cuts are a challenge to faculty and staff holding the strategic plan on course. At the same time, it is even more crucial to review and tighten administration efficiency. Peat Marwick's recommendations suggesting a 25 percent reduction in staff through extensive reorganization and heavy investment in new technology and retraining are now under university-wide review.

It's going to be a busy summer.

STEVE DUNNELL



"We are more alike, my friends, than we are unlike."

From "Human Family" in *I Shall Not Be Moved*. **Maya Angelou**, poet and memoirist who read her poem, "On the Pulse of Morning," at President Clinton's inauguration, spoke at VCU's 1995 Commencement, May 20.

**Fashion '95** glittered on the World Wide Web, linked by digital camera to the Internet. VCU Student Fashion Show, April 21.

DANA WARE



"I never wanted this weight, this mercy inside."

From "Isaac Blessing" in *Strange Courage*. **Professor Richard Sherwin**, Israeli poet and educator, lectured on "Poetry, Politics and Tradition" as 1995 Harry Lyons Visiting Professor of Judaic Studies.



STACY L. REED, COMMONWEALTH TIMES

"Free speech and equal rights for women are absolutely indivisible."

**Nadine Strossen**, president of the American Civil Liberties Union, discussed feminism, censorship and pornography on February 21, sponsored by the VCU Honors Program.

"When you remove the hierarchy, you are running separate businesses within the corporation. The CEO should coordinate the parts, not exert budgetary control that will destroy the unit."

**Dr. James Emshoff**, author of *The New Rules of the Game* and restructuring expert. Thalimer Business Scholar-in-Residence April 6-7.



DON PIERCE

**VCU's Jazz Masters**, top professionals and adjunct music faculty, ain't misbehavin' these days. They'll be taking jazz performance and instruction into elementary, middle and high schools in Virginia thanks to a \$500,000 endowment campaign. In May, the total was \$456,000 and rising quickly toward a June 30 deadline.



JOSEPH A. MAHONEY

"This is really what it's all about. Communication from one party to the other."

**Dr. Martin Rodbell**, 1994 Co-winner of Nobel Prize in Medicine, compared Michelangelo's image of God reaching to Adam with his own co-discovery of G-proteins that carry messages from hormones on the outside of the cell to the inside of the cell. Innovators in Biochemistry Lecture April 10.



DEAN HOFFMEYER

Boss-directed instead of

LIVE AT VCU



**HONORS**

**PROGRAM**

**ELECTRICITY**

**CRACKLES**

**THROUGH**

**THE**

**UNIVERSITY.**

BY DOUG CHILDERS 89BA/H&S

“

think the Honors Program encourages intellectual exploring in ways that other classes don't," says **Terry Harpold '92BA/H&S**, now a third-year student in the School of Medicine. Faculty member **Dr. Ed Peeples '57BS/E** finds teaching in the program "a lively experience in which the students get hooked." This kind of mutual addiction to learning is what Dr. Thomas Hall, the program's first coordinator, had in mind when it began in 1983.

There were 63 students that first year, from the College of Humanities and Sciences. And now, 843 students make up their own small college within the big university, under the direction of Dr. John Berglund. The program draws students in majors from business to biology to painting. The interdisciplinary hub for students and faculty from both campuses is Millhiser House on Franklin Street. Students can study, hang out and dip into the ongoing conversation at the Honors Lounge—stimulated by informal talks and lectures at weekly brown bag lunches and dessert and tea seminars sponsored by the program. The Outstanding Scholars series brings in people like University of Georgia historian **Robert Pratt '80BA/H&S**, who has written two books on race and education in Richmond from 1954 to 1989.

All of the informal activities are open to the university. The Honors Lounge is meant to be an intellectual magnet for all VCU students. Peeples sees it as "this special shining jewel that casts its light on the academic community and says, 'You know, there's a special place you could be, if you want to work for it.' A student looks at it and says, 'I'd like to do that.' And some will stretch."

Honors courses and students crackle through the rest of the university. Students carry the spirit of inquiry into their other classes. Often, Berglund says, professors will develop a new course by teaching part of it as an honors module "a pilot, if you like—before they develop it into a full-fledged course for the university at large."

The program itself is the pilot for a new emphasis throughout VCU education, developed by a strategic planning task force that Berglund led. "As the curricular changes from the strategic plan take effect," he says, "all students will begin to experience some of the things that have been going on in the Honors Program." (See sidebar.)



**Satisfied.** English BA Terry Harpole followed her craving for science to the School of Medicine through guaranteed admission.

## HARD-WIRING THE INTELLECTUAL LIFE

Undergraduates throughout VCU will soon find their academic life more exacting, more exhilarating and more integrated with all the other things they do—simply, more alive.

Honors Program director Dr. John Berglund led the strategic planning task force on General Education. "Courses will evolve around issues or themes," he explains. "We want to break down the barriers to interdisciplinary cooperation." Seven areas of learning will be integrated into the undergraduate curriculum:

Strong written and oral communication skills, including communication standards for their disciplines. Applying ethics in personal and professional decisions. Ability to quantify and represent information symbolically, and to analyze and manipulate it according to the standards in their disciplines. A grasp of scientific method and the impact of science and technology on society. Awareness of social, economic and cultural interdependence, globally and locally. Experience of the arts, which enriches their lives, their understanding and valuing of the human experience across cultures—and generates creative thinking and alternative modes of problem-solving. In humanities and social sciences, learning to analyze and reflect critically upon cultural and social contexts of human behavior, and learning modes of study in these disciplines.

# STRUCK

Although full-semester honors classes offer accelerated versions of standard courses as well as original topics, the five-week honors modules are the heart of the program. A teacher and a small group of students take a brief but intense look at a topic. This year, students chose from courses like Legal Aspects of the Virtual Community, Women of Vision: Lillian Wald and the Public Health Movement and The Automobile in American Society. In the honors catalog description of his course, Innovative Ideas in Medicine, Dr. William Relgelson promised to examine “the ecology of ideas,” the relationship of power and profit to funding and creativity, citing as one example “the unholy alliance between the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association and the FDA.”

And there’s more. Perhaps the neatest wrinkle is that a qualifying student who graduates with honors and meets requirements for a specific program on the MCV Campus is guaranteed admission—a feature that has attracted more than a few pre-med students to the Honors Program. Berglund points out that the guaranteed admission extends not only to the School of Medicine but to all health science programs, some of them with even tighter admissions than medicine. “The physical therapy program in the School of Allied Health Professions gets an average of 1,200 applications for 42 slots.”

The program has also attracted students to health sciences who, in their freshman year, had no intention of studying medicine. Terry Harpold entered VCU as an English major and graduated with an English degree. Happy enough with her major, still Harpold felt the lack of hard science. So she signed up for Dr. Anne Woodlief’s English course in “Nature Writing.” “I knew at that point,” she says, “that I wanted to read science and that I believed there could be literary scientific writing. I hadn’t really decided to be a physician, but I knew that I had to become some kind of scientist.”

This is the point where Honors Program faculty may have their biggest impact. On average, studies suggest, a college student changes majors four times before graduation. Often, those changes are made because a professor has made a particular subject more appealing than others. Perhaps the professor is particularly charismatic; perhaps the subject resonates for the student. In either case, the Honors Program is designed to pique a student’s interest and influence career choices.

Because of their small size—twenty students at most—and advanced students, teaching in honors modules can be more like graduate seminars than undergraduate lecture courses. Dr. Joe Chinnici routinely teaches introductory biology classes of three hundred students. He appreciates the modules’ more intimate settings. “The small classes help a lot in discussions,” he says, “because students feel less inhibited about speaking up.”

Harpold adds that in all her honors courses, “assignments would be given in a way that allowed students to tailor the course for their particular interests.” It’s an approach that encourages personal intellectual passion.

As a junior, Harpold took Chinnici’s “Genetic Engineering” honors module, a hefty dose of the hard science she’d been missing. “It was great,” she says. “I really enjoyed it.” Now finishing her third year in the School of Medicine, Harpold says, “I don’t think I would have gone to medical school if it hadn’t been for the Honors

## EPIPHANY, RIGHT THERE

It is undoubtedly a rare happening, when a person can honestly write that their life-goals took a sharp, unexpected turn at that moment right there. It seems too easy; big decisions come from accumulated meditations, some of which are conscious and some not. But it must happen: you linger at the edge, fretting, and then suddenly something—or someone—gives you a final, decisive push.

I got such a push in my first Honors course.

I wasn’t in the crew of bright teenagers who entered the Honors Program as freshmen. I was a twenty-five-year-old student in my junior year(s). I got into the Program by convincing Dr. Tom Hall, the Honors Program Coordinator, that I was worth a risk. As a trial, he asked me to take Dr. Hornbuckle’s Honors course, “Intro to Psychology.”

At the time, I was a philosophy major, and Dr. Hall was my departmental advisor. But I was at a crucial moment in my education. My instincts led me to study literature, but I was feeling an increasing need for a discipline that gave me cold, hard facts. I had even begun to consider studying physics, although I’ve never shown a lick of talent for it.

Midway through the semester, I mentioned my dilemma to Dr. Hornbuckle. At the time, she said little in response. But at the next class meeting, she delivered a lecture on educational development. She mentioned a study by a Harvard professor named William Perry and walked us through Perry’s four stages of development. The typical student, she said, first passes from accepting a professor’s words as if they were engraved on stone to doubting everything she says. Then the student decides to believe only cold facts. At this point, Dr. Hornbuckle said, the student will often change their major to one of the “hard” sciences. (At this, my skin tingled slightly, as if I’d just read an eerily accurate horoscope.) With the fourth and final stage, Dr. Hornbuckle said, the student begins to believe (and study) the discipline that brings happiness and feels as comfortable as an old hat.

Then, as if she’d been reading my mind, she uttered words that seemed as powerful to me as if she were Ali Babba crying “Open sesame.” What she said, was this: “Tolstoy probably understood as much about human



DOUG BUERLEIN



*Talking smart.* Kristie Robertson, Philip Sheridan and Linh Du hang out at Millhiser House, open to all VCU students.

Program.”

The modules are a jolt of the university's strongest thought, and students feel that power surge. “What I try to do in my ‘Genetic Engineering’ module,” Chinnici says, “is bring in experts who have done or are doing research in the area we’re talking about. It gives us fresh

approaches. This is the real advantage of the modules: they expose the students to the cutting edge of current research.” For Chinnici’s students, this means exposure to topics like eugenics, recombinant DNA technology and pre-natal diagnosis.

For professors, teaching a module offers synergy. Students’ exploratory drive turns up the intellectual current. “The faculty,” Berglund observes, “get the opportunity to teach students who in almost all cases are volunteers in their course—that is, the course is purely elective. Which means that they can spend less time on motivation and more time directly on the content they’re interested in.

“Of course, another major point,” he continues, “is that all of our modules are designed by the faculty member who is actually teaching them. Therefore they have a personal stake in it and tend to be very enthusiastic.”

Chinnici adds that he would encourage other faculty to consider teaching modules “because it’s a way of being exposed to the brightest and best students the university has—and we all benefit from that.”

**Gloria Thomas ’92 BA/H&S** credits several honors professors with influencing her career choices as well as her ideas. But she refers to Dr. Ed Peeples, of the preventive medicine faculty, in tones of awe. “I just can’t say enough for him, especially in his role as a mentor. He is absolutely brilliant and totally committed.”

When Thomas first met Peeples, he was the program’s scholar-in-residence and she took his “A Critical Look at Contemporary Medicine.” Her senior independent study project with him was “Violence Prevention Through Public Policy,” which grew into her first published paper. “He gave me a lot of time,” Thomas says, “and a lot of guidance.”

They appeared together on Richmond’s WRVA radio discussing violence prevention. Now, she teaches her own course on the subject, “Empowerment for Women: Tactics and Tools for Preventing Violence,” at J. Sargent Reynolds Community College.

Peeples himself dodges the notion of being a mentor, though he is touched by Thomas’s praise. “It’s not anything I do that makes a student excel,” he says. “I just generate a fire.” When pressed, Peeples concedes that students seem to like his courses because he shows them how addictive and compelling learning can be. “I ask for a lot of interaction,” he says, “and I ask them to do things for themselves. I hate grades, I hate tests, I hate evaluating students.”

What he’s after is that strong exchange that engages students and pulls them into the subject. “Then they can’t stay away from the library, and they can’t stay away from the computer databases. It’s just irresistible.”



*Firing minds. Dr. Ed Peeples watches ideas catch fire in students like Gloria Thomas—who still lights up around her mentor.*

nature as any scientist ever will.”

Big words like “epiphany” can incur skepticism when they’re applied to the “real” world. But it’s probably an accurate description of what I felt that day, listening to Dr. Hornbuckle. That night, I thought over what she’d said. And I thought about it some more the next day. Then, later that afternoon, I declared English as a second major. Three years later, I would graduate from the University of Virginia with a master’s degree in English and embark on the lonely, self-doubting task of becoming a novelist.

I wish I could say I’d just won a well-known prize for my newest novel. But I can’t. Life—and perhaps a writer’s life, especially—isn’t that easy. But I’m happier as a writer than I would have been trying to contort myself into a scientist, and if Dr. Hornbuckle isn’t solely responsible for helping me find that happiness, she certainly deserves credit for giving me that final push.

DOUG CHILDERS IS EDITOR AND PUBLISHER OF WAG, A RICHMOND ALTERNATIVE MONTHLY. CHILDERS AND HIS WIFE DONNA FROSTICK ’85BFA/A OWN AND OPERATE RIVERRUN ENTERPRISES, WHICH PUBLISHED GENE COX’S *GLAZED DONUTS*, THE BEST-SELLING LOCALLY PUBLISHED BOOK IN THE HISTORY OF RICHMOND.

## HONORS ADMISSION

High school graduates with combined SAT scores of at least 1200 and rank in the upper 15% of their graduating class, and VCU Presidential Scholars are eligible for admission to the Honors Program automatically upon application. Any continuing VCU student or transfer student who has achieved a 3.5 GPA in 30 college semester hours is also automatically eligible for admission. Students are also admitted to the Honors Program on an individual basis by a subcommittee of the Honors Council. The primary condition for acceptance is evidence of the personal commitment and academic ability to do honors-level work.

To graduate with University Honors, a student must take at least six modules and three full-semester honors courses and have a 3.50 cumulative GPA with a 3.20 GPA in honors courses.

Write, call or drop in at The Honors Program, 916 West Franklin Street; Richmond, VA 23284-3010; (804) 828-1803 fax (804) 828-1355.

### Health Sciences Guaranteed Admission.

Students admitted to these programs must meet admission requirements and be accepted by that program’s admissions committee. For information, call Dr. Arthur Seidenberg at (804) 828-1673.

ALL VCU STUDENTS ARE FREE TO DROP INTO THE HONORS LOUNGE AT MILLHISER HOUSE, TO SAMPLE INFORMAL LECTURES AND JUST TO STUDY OR HANG OUT.

VERSIONS OF THIS STORY ALSO APPEAR IN SPRING-SUMMER ISSUES OF VCU TEACHING AND SCARAB.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MEDIA PRODUCTION SERVICES, VCU





# PARTNERS

*Social Work faculty, alumni and students reach out to the community.*

BY JOHN SARVAY '94BGS/NTS

If one of the roles of an urban university is to offer its programs and expertise to its surrounding community, the School of Social Work has cast its net wide.

How wide? Into the neighborhoods of Oregon Hill and Carver. Throughout the City of Richmond and into Henrico, Chesterfield, Goochland and Charles City counties. Into Northern and Southwest Virginia. The school's contributions even reach the people of Brazil.

For the oldest school of social work in the South—founded in 1917—partnerships with community and state agencies are second nature. "We are truly a collection of colleagues concerned about the condition of people in the urban environment," says Dean Frank Baskind.

This principle drives teaching and research.

"Three years ago," Baskind says, "our faculty made a courageous decision to step back from a master's curriculum that had been in place for 10 years." To prepare students better to work for a society that uses them in a myriad of ways, the new curriculum is less narrowly specialized and more integrated. Students gain a deeper understanding in several areas through their field internships.

"It is very important to expand their experience by placing them in several different agencies," says Jaclyn Miller, director of field instruction. "Our students are doing social work for two years," she says. "They don't just observe."

Students tell Miller that the two years they spend shuttling between classroom and agency placement is at once the most valuable and the most anxious time of their academic careers. "That's why they are here, because the program is hands-on right away," she says. "Of course, it does raise some anxiety for them, but we train our field instructors to supervise and work closely with the students."

One field work instructor—and alumna—sees that anxiety first-hand. Mattie S. Jones supervises five VCU students who counsel students in the rural Charles City County School System. What the field interns find are problems that mirror—and sometimes exceed—those facing inner-city children.



**Touched.** Student Denise Clark shares some hands-on learning with buddies at William Byrd Community Center in Oregon Hill.

"They get to know a rural poverty community where children do not have a wide range of sophisticated services," Jones says. Jones recently won a national award for her outstanding field work supervision from the Council on Social Work Education. (See sidebar.)

Field instructors like Jones are agency employees assigned to work closely with VCU students. Agencies get the double benefit of the student's work and extra training for the supervisor. VCU's 450 undergraduates and graduate students contribute 7,350 field hours a week to their communities. And the university gains a valuable link to its social work alumni—about two-thirds of the 350 field instructors are graduates of the School of Social Work.

"The benefit to our agency is that the students augment our staff and offer us a fresh perspective on what we are doing," says **Michael Evans '77BSW '81MSW/SW**, director of the Richmond Department of Social Services. Evans' department, which serves 38,000 Richmonders (almost 20 percent of the city's population), works with at least 10 field workers a semester.

"They work in foster care, with the elderly, in our employment services office," Evans says. "But for the most

part, they are working with families in crisis—families who need housing, families who are dealing with substance abuse problems and problems with children. It really runs the gamut."

And like the students working in rural areas, field workers in urban centers are often shaken at what is sometimes their first view of front-line social work. "It can be very overwhelming to some

students," Evans agrees. "Many of them just are not accustomed to working independently under very tough circumstances." But, he adds, "they adapt very quickly. They recognize that this is the starting point for people in these careers."

Field work was certainly a starting point for Evans. He did his graduate placement with the United Way in Richmond. "It led to an excellent opportunity with the United Way in Louisville. These placements not only give students a point of reference for what they are learning in the classroom, but they provide valuable contacts in the profession."

A second aspect of strategic restructuring for the school is expanding its Northern Virginia (NOVA) program to four full-time faculty. NOVA's 200 graduate students, Baskind says, "can now take all their course work without having to come to Richmond." In refocusing, the VCU phased out its social work program in Bristol as Radford University came online with its own program for students in Southwestern Virginia.

And Brazil? Faculty member Dr. Mary K. Rodwell's 28 years of work in Brazil began in the Peace Corps and has continued through a series of faculty and



**Good Neighbors.** VCU's 450 undergraduates and graduate students contribute 7,350 field hours a week to communities from Richmond to Rio. Stacie Vecchietti joins seniors at William Byrd.

student exchanges for research and teaching with a focus on children at risk and poor communities. Through an exchange agreement between the Federal University of Santa Catarina, Florianopolis, Brazil and VCU, many Brazilian and American faculty and students have worked together recently in projects related to street children, AIDS, and alcohol and drug abuse prevention. In 1991, this work was recognized by the American Express and Partners of the Americas Award for International Youth Development. In 1993 Rodwell had a Fulbright senior lecture/research award to teach and to work with street children through the School of Education of the Federal University in Salvador, Bahia. The Fulbright allowed her to continue her work with child welfare service delivery systems, not just in Salvador and Florianopolis but also in Rio de Janeiro and Fortaleza.

Constructivist research is Rodwell's tool for analysis and change. It's an alternative research method using intensive interviews which recognizes cultural relativity and "explores irregularities in the world instead of going after a universal 'Truth,'" she says. The interviewer

must listen very carefully and respect the individual and the culture. "You assume that people know what they are talking about; it's not the expert researcher coming in with the answers." Rodwell adds that "getting into the community is much easier with this method. It's also a research geared toward action so that people can change things. I think this methodology is more congruent with the philosophy of social work." Two of Rodwell's students, Barbara Conklin and James Christmas, are currently applying constructivism in a neighborhood assessment project in Richmond's East End on mental health services for children at risk.

"Our roots as a school are about helping serve those communities that aren't being served," says Ann Nichols-Casebolt, associate dean for research development. "You cannot teach just within the classroom. It is essential for our students to understand the reality of their clients' lives."

JOHN SARVAY IS A RICHMOND FREELANCE WRITER AND EDITOR OF *PLANET*, A MONTHLY TRAVEL MAGAZINE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOSEPH A. MAHONEY



*You gotta be tough. Students learn "to work independently under very tough circumstances," says alumnus Michael Evans, director of Social Services for 38,000 Richmonders.*



## *The Heart of Social Work*

When **Mattie S. Jones '59MSW/SW** graduated from Richmond Professional Institute in 1959, she had no intention of devoting her life to people as fully as she has. "When I went to RPI I just wanted a job from nine to five," she says. "I didn't know what social work was all about. What I learned, though, was how to understand people."

That's the lesson she tries to teach the up-and-coming social work professionals from VCU who do field work through her program in Charles City Public Schools. "I tell them that every person in an organization is a human being. You have to work with an organization, but you have to get to know the human being as well as the professional."

That lesson, combined with her outstanding supervision of five School of Social Work students who spend two days a week working in the rural school system, is why she was recently recognized by the Northern American Task Force on Field Education of the Council on Social Work Education. Six field professionals around the country received the "Heart of Social Work Award" for "outstanding performance in leading social work students in field instruction." Mattie Jones was one of them.

Jones created the in-school social work program in 1988. It originally worked out of the county's Department of Social Services, but was moved into the schools because it was seen as being the most successful with children and their families.

Jones says the program has been an eye-opener for the VCU students, who spend most of their time counseling students who are at risk of dropping out. "They get to know a rural poverty community where children do not have a wide range of sophisticated services," she says. "I teach the students to go in there and be cool about it. Some of the things they experience are real shockers for them, direct contradictions to everything they learned in the classroom."

Perhaps one of the most important lessons for the students is that rural communities are not perfect communities. "Every community needs help," Jones says. "The problems in a rural community are really about the needs of children that are growing up and the patterns of living that their family teaches them."

Thoughtfulness is a key to Jones' professional success. The quiet twenty-minute drive from her Varina home is what she calls her "thinking time."

"I've learned not to go in fighting the system. I get to know the system and learn how to help it."

—JOHN SARVAY

# HQ AT VCU FOR MULTINATIONAL PROFESSOR

## Dr. Van Wood, Philip Morris Chair in International Business

BY DAVID REES

He has sold Chilean cattle pancreas, navigated a container ship and helped Peruvian alpaca growers with quality control. Now, Dr. Van R. Wood's job is to create an international business program at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Wood, 44, one of a new breed of globe-trotting academic business experts, joined VCU in August to fill the new Philip Morris Chair in International Business. He teaches marketing and is developing VCU programs on international business that meet businesses' real needs.

He flew in straight from Singapore to start. He'd stopped in Singapore after a three-week stint in Beijing and Taiyuan, China, lecturing to aspiring Chinese executives about international markets. "For the last 10 years, it's been like that," Wood said. He grinned. "I really love it."

At VCU, Wood said, "I'm building on my past network of international relationships and building new ones." For example, he is working with the School of Business's fast track MBA program director Bill Miller to add an international experience in Mexico City in July, when VCU executives will meet with their counterparts in Mexican industries. Wood

returns to China in August to explore management training opportunities for Chinese managers.

All year, Wood says, "People have been coming from across the globe. I can't believe all the visitors we've had at VCU, from France, Japan, England, South Africa. Master's students and undergraduates have gone to Italy. The potential for international programs involving our students and professors is really exciting."

Wood spent Christmas in Puerto Rico—teaching a master's seminar in international advertising strategy between Latin America and the United States, for businessmen from both areas. Between lectures on choosing a partner and finding a market, he did manage to fit in a wedding—his own—on the day after Christmas. Wood and Beth Halloran were married at the Governor's Palace by the sea in old San Juan.

Standard operating procedure, according to Dr. Pamela Kiecker, a VCU marketing professor who has co-written award-winning papers with Wood about international franchising. "He always says, 'I feel like I come alive' when he goes abroad," Kiecker said.

Wood is not just an airport-to-the-Hilton-and-back sort of traveler, she added. "His idea is to go and live there for six months. In China, he loves the banquets and all the rounds of toasts; he goes off the beaten path, he likes to interact with his interpreter to learn some words in the language, learn how people feel about things."

An Air Force brat, Wood knew after his father was posted to a U.S. air base in Italy that

And cattle pancreas.

Chile is a major producer of beef. When Wood found out that cattle pancreas is a source of insulin—a medicine for diabetics in short supply in Chile at the time—he and his colleagues at the development company figured they had a business opportunity. In fact, two. Wood found a German buyer—who sold some of the insulin it made in Chile.

Wood's research has centered on international marketing, blending theory with practice. Wood has been working most of the past 20 years on a study of Finnish consumers. The academic point was to develop ways of measuring how consumers perceive foreign products, and then to see how those perceptions affect



**Business Flair.** After Chile, Wood wound up in Peru. He boosted exports of alpaca wool by setting up a quality control program. Reluctant North American buyers were won over.

he wanted to learn more about other countries and other ways of living.

His first idea was to sort of run away to sea. He spent two years as a midshipman at the United States Merchant Marine Academy. He spent his sophomore year on a ship sailing between West Coast ports and Japan, Hong Kong and South Korea. "The company wanted the captain and chief mate to know its major customers; they'd take me along for dinners and meetings, and I learned a lot, but it was all anecdotal. I wanted to get more serious," Wood said.

So, after finishing a business degree at the University of Washington, he signed on for a stint with the Industrial Development Corp. in Santiago, Chile. His job was to develop export markets for a wide variety of Chilean goods—everything from produce to textiles to machinery.

sales of those foreign products. "Language, religion—even geography—all affect the culture," he said. At the message level, you have to remember, for example, that North Americans tend to want precise, objective information. Latin and Asian cultures emphasize poetry and emotion." The latest paper from the project outlines ways Russian businesses could boost their market share in the West.

Darling said Wood is analytical, very organized—and very busy. "He only operates at one speed: full steam ahead."

THIS ARTICLE IS AN UPDATED VERSION OF A PROFILE FROM THE RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH NOVEMBER 29, 1994 PHOTO BY STUART T. WAGNER BOTH ARE REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION

# Y'all Call It

## REUNION '95

invited all alumni of Richmond Professional Institute—VCU's predecessor—back to campus to make and renew friendships and to see how their university had grown. Both university and alumni have done themselves proud, according to Jean Light Willis '61BFA/A. She found that most of her fellow alumni had careers in art—“This shows what a great art department RPI had,” she wrote. After the campus bus tour, she commented, “I am amazed and proud.”

VCU's Honors Program and African American Alumni Council also celebrated the weekend, attracting record numbers of alumni back for Reunion '95.

**1**—And this is *The Way We Are*. You saw their faces circa 1949 promoting Reunion '95. The 1948-49 Prospect staff reunited are (from left) **Charles Stebbins '50BS/MC**, **Frances Stringfellow Wellman Friedman '51BS/MC** and **Nikki Calisch Fairman '49BS/SW**. **Martele Sporn Wasserman '51BS/MC** is in photo 2 below (for right). Missing are **Eugene Wright** and **Professor Richard Allen**.

**2** “I feel like a celebrity!” **Martele Wasserman** (right) and her husband **Dr. Albert Wasserman '51MD/M** greet fellow Prospect “celebrity” (see photo 1) **Cornelia Friedman** and her husband **Roland Friedman '51BS/B**.

**3** Members of the RPI-VCU 50 Year Alumni Club welcome new inductees. Standing (from left) are **Laila Wheary Pearsall '36BS/H&S**, **Clinton Baber, Lucille Anderson Baber '39BS/AH(MT)** and **Martina Riis Moore '37BS/H&S**. Seated are new members **Frances Holzelow Clarke '37BS/H&S**, and **Elizabeth Talmán Chiles '37BS/E**.

**4** Win '60BS/B and Lin '59BFA/A **Johnson** rekindle the magic they experienced forty years ago on the same spot where they met on Halloween night in Shaffer Court. (Is it true that RPI stands for Richmond Pyrotechnic Institute?)

**5** **Helen Dent-Solomon '80BS/H&S** and **Renee Jones '80BS/MC** greet friends at the African American Alumni



**1**



**4**



**3**



**6**



**2**



better. All 400 alumni at the AAAC's Reunion Weekend dance had a great time renewing friendships.

**7** VCU Alumni Association President Ken Magill '65BS/B '69MS/E greets friends Harvey "Bubba" Cronie '65BS/E and C.G. Winston '67BS/E.

**8** Alumni celebrated with hot dogs and dashes in the Student Commons plaza at the picnic and informal market sponsored by the African American Alumni Council (AAAC).

**9** Sari Pearson '47BS/H&S (left) and Rose Minkoff Fisher '47BFA/A renew their RPI friendship in Shafer Court.

**10** Wanida Jones King (center) shares a cup of punch and a smile with two friends.

**11** Marianne and Lester Duty '60BS/B at the RPI Opening Reception.

**12** Jackie Tunstall Bynum '83BS/H&S (center) recruits new members to the AAAC.

**13** Louise Langhorne Easley '35BFA/A tells a great story. Ken Rowe '43BFA/A and Katherine LaBruce Rowe '46BFA/A are caught up in RPI memories at the "Early Days" Dinner at Linden Row Inn.

**14** Steve Harvey '70BS '75MEd/E welcomes Frances and Ed Allen and Briggs Elliott, owner of the former RPI hangout Andy's. Allen was RPI's athletic director and coach for nearly two decades. (See cover story.)

**15** "Remember that?" Bob Lindholm '50BS/H&S (right) points out his favorite RPI photos from one of his yearbooks.

**16** Mildred Chappell Robinson '65BFA/A and her husband Jimmy Willie Anne Wright '64MFA/A and her husband Jack, and Sunny Gilmer Lynn '48BS/H&S '67MS/AH and her husband Henry Lynn enjoy the perfect Reunion Weekend weather in the gardens of the Valentine Museum during the Opening Reception.

PHOTOS 3 5 6 8 10 14 D. L. BY MICHAEL SIMON

AL OTHER PHOTOS BY JAY PAUL 85EUS 87N 93MFA/A



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16



# WHILE THIS WAS INTEGRATING

BY GLORIA THOMAS '92BA/H&S AND  
MARY ELLEN MERCER

"My parents were not aggressive in challenging the system," says **Hilda Yates Warden '52Cert/SW '64MS/AH(RC)**. But even as a child growing up in the 1920s and '30s, "I never could understand how another individual could say, 'This is your place.'"

By 1950 the 32-year-old former school teacher was working for Richmond social services in the Department of Welfare. Warden well understood that to be promoted a black woman needed more education than a white social worker. In 1950 Richmond Professional Institute was the only college in Virginia offering graduate-level social work courses. The mother of two applied to take one evening class.

At registration the week before class started, Warden was told to see the director of the School of Social Work. The Board of Visitors (in Williamsburg—RPI was still a division of William and Mary) had not decided whether to admit black students. "In terms of the attitude of the people who controlled educational resources, we were less than people—we were still in an entirely segregated situation," she says. Director Dr. George Kalif told Warden to submit a full application. (Other part-time students were filling out half-sheet forms.) In a week she pulled together transcripts and three references, had a physical, and filled out a lengthy application. "At that moment I decided this was my time," she says. "I would have no chance of advancement without social work credits."

A nervous Kalif called the Director of Public Welfare to ask whether a pressure group was backing Warden. "I think they were fearful that an organization like the NAACP would sponsor court action," she says. Warden prevailed, and desegregation began at RPI. Yet, as the only black student, Warden found, "For the most part it was like there were two worlds. It was a sort of a chilly situation."

Still, in some ways the school was more ready for integration



*Hilda Warden*

than its community. RPI was no stranger to struggle—or raised eyebrows. Founder Dr. Henry Hibbs had "started the school in 1917 with an eye toward human service," says **Dr. Ed Peeples '57BS/E**. Hibbs created a different kind of college, training professionals in social service and public health nursing, using the city itself as classroom. When Theresa Pollak founded the School of Art in 1928, the arts cachet added to the school's unconventional reputation.

RPI students were among the leaders of the Richmond Intercollegiate Council, an interracial student group formed by local schools in 1944. (See timeline.) "We live in a world that can be changed," said Russell Jones of Virginia Union bravely in a keynote address to 300 people at MCV's Egyptian Building. Their dual purpose was to show that "religion is a living reality in our hearts" and to find outlets for social responsibility. **Jane Weaver Poulton '47BA/H&S** says, "The Council offered the first integrated class in the South, a one-credit course taught by integrated faculty from the different schools."

Hibbs' ongoing struggles to fund the college added to the school's willingness to do things differently. There's a persistent and undated story about Hibbs' response when he was told that six black students wanted to register for the evening college—"Have they got the tuition money?" Hibbs' pragmatism was effective in building an unconventional college. He "got away with enrolling blacks because people didn't look at RPI," suggests Peeples. The community didn't concern itself much with the school, because "it was where working class people went."

Whatever the reasons, Warden's enrollment in 1950 didn't raise alarms, and in 1951 she and four other black students applied and were quietly admitted full-time to the School of Social Work. Precedent was established, but no policies were set and long-instituted practices and habits of separation didn't disappear. The three black students from out of town were not allowed to live in the dormitories, so black families near campus offered room and board. After their first visit to the dining room, Warden remem-



*Dr. Ed Peeples*

# W&M

## RPI AND VCU

bers two instructors admonishing them not to eat there because they were not living on campus. Other students living off campus ate there regularly.

Even so, dedication to the common goal of learning together bridged distances, especially within the social work program. "We worked on projects and occasionally studied together—I made a few friends," Warden says.

**Lawrence Bussard '54 MSW/SW** remembers that as a white student, "We tried to make the black students feel wanted and accepted." Since black students couldn't go out with white students anywhere else, they occasionally ate together at Virginia Union University. Why no organized protest? "Those weren't the days of protest," says Bussard—echoing the reluctance of Warden's parents to challenge the status quo.

Without a policy on integration, Warden's admission to RPI was no guarantee that others could follow. And as Warden observes, "the rules seem to change at the whim of the people who run the programs." **Dr. Grace Harris '60MSW/SW**, now VCU's acting president, was denied admission to the graduate School of Social Work in fall 1954, and instead Virginia paid her tuition at Boston University. (This practice was standard in Virginia and other southern states at the time.) She stayed in Boston for the first year of the two-year MSW program and later finished her MSW at RPI.

Athletic competition at RPI was also providing room for support of racial equality. Peebles (#32) played forward for RPI's basketball team, the Green Devils, from 1953-57. He strongly



Lawrence Bussard

COURTESY OF LAWRENCE BUSSARD

remembers Coach Ed Allen, who quietly but effectively made his dislike of segregation clear to the team. Peebles also remembers a significant moment from the time when Virginia's Massive Resistance laws prohibited interracial sports competition at public institutions. One night in the mid-1950s, Bridgewater, one of the few private state colleges that admitted blacks, came to play RPI in the then-new Franklin Street gym. A young black player ran lay-ups and then sat on the bench. When his coach called him into the game, the young man stood, and the small crowd of basketball fans started to applaud. "I had a chill...he came on the floor in defiance of the Massive Resistance law," says Peebles. "RPI basketball fans were saying in their own modest way, 'We're ready for the future.' I was changing and so were people around me."



Dr. Grace Harris



The 1956-57 Green Devils and Coach Ed Allen (center front)

Change was reflected in a 1954 poll by RPI's student newspaper, *The Proscript*, when a majority of RPI students agreed with the Supreme Court's desegregation decision in Brown vs. the Board of Education. During the next few years, the ground swell of change built quietly at RPI, Massive Resistance countered by passive defiance.

By the end of the decade, angrier protest appeared. In 1959-60, *The Ghost*, an RPI

underground newspaper, delivered blistering editorials, many against racism. *Ghost* writers (Peebles among them) reported the mysterious cancellation of a basketball game between RPI and Union Theological Seminary in 1960. "It seems there is a Negro player on Union's team, and there is a vague policy . . . somewhere in the W&M administrative scheme, restricting [its schools] from



Dr. Henry Hibbs founds the Richmond School of Social Economy; becomes Richmond School of Social Work and Public Health in 1918

Richmond School of Social Work and Public Health becomes part of the College of William and Mary

Richmond Inter-collegiate Council; Interracial group established by students and faculty of five Richmond schools including RPI, MCV and St. Philip's

First four full-time black graduate students admitted to RPI's School of Social Work

Dr. Jean Harris, first black student admitted to MCV School of Medicine

Virginia General Assembly passes Massive Resistance legislation to prevent implementation of Brown v. Board of Education

1960 Last graduating class of St. Philip School of Nursing as black students are integrated into MCV School of Nursing



St. Philip Hospital School of Nursing founded as MCV's "parallel" program to educate black nurses

The Richmond School of Social Work and Public Health becomes Richmond Professional Institute

U.S. Supreme Court desegregation decision: Brown v. Board of Education. In a *Proscript* poll, a majority of RPI students agree with the Court

State and federal courts rule Virginia's Massive Resistance legislation unconstitutional

1965 RPI gains independence from the College of William & Mary

competing against anyone but blond, blue-eyed Aryans on state property." Words led to action during the '60s when many RPI students joined civil rights protesters, picketing and boycotting Richmond stores.

On campus, **Willie Dell '70MSW/SW** says black students began confronting RPI's administration, asking for increases in black faculty and students, more scholarships for black students, and diversified field placements. At the time, white women students were not placed with black women field supervisors. Dell remembers students being told that the rationale was that black women had lower morals. The dean "admitted it was true and said that racism existed as part of the culture we were in. He said, 'Sometimes you are operating out of that old system.'"



Willie Dell

**Dr. Norma Goode '60MSW/SW** adds, "The advisors in the School of Social Work took great pains to insulate us from anything anyone might say that would make us feel uncomfortable. Yet, it still could not prevent people who had been brought up to believe certain things about African-Americans from saying things."

Even so, the School of Social Work was something of a haven for black students in the '60s. It had a large share of the teachers Ed Peeples calls "educational missionaries"—people like Dr. Alice Davis, Archer Michael and Dean Elaine Rothenberg, who mentored Grace Harris among many others. Peeples was struck by some startling ideas. "I had never before in my life heard anyone say anything bad about Harry Byrd or our way of life in Virginia," he says. **Ruby Clayton Walker '65 MSW/SW** thinks, "Those doors were opened because of the values we believe in as a profession—to seek social justice and democratic principles in terms of the way we relate to people in society."

"All of us were caught up in the racism of the '60s," says **Ellen Jordan '65MSW/SW**—like the Grace Street restaurant that still refused to serve blacks. But she remembers that "the issues were with society. Few were with classmates." In fact, Jordan says, "I think my mom was amazed when I would call and say somebody was coming home with me, and then they would get there and it

was a white person." When Hilda Warden got her second degree in rehabilitation counseling in the '60s, she says, "the attitudes were changing—I felt the school was very open-minded."

Casual encounters and first overtures between black and white students could produce some awkward moments. There were three black students out of twenty-five in Jordan's first-year class.

"Sometimes if people saw one of us, they would say, 'Where are the other two?'"

One evening **Donna Greene Kaiser '65BFA/A** and her husband **Robert Kaiser '65BFA/A** (not yet married) found only two seats left in the cafeteria. The two white students joined a table of older, black graduate students. "They were all very congenial," she says. "But they didn't talk other than to say a polite 'Hello.' There was still sort of that barrier there."

Ruby Walker, now assistant professor in the School of Social Work, was one of the "three." To cope with racism, she found it essential to work on her own personal growth and share openly with her friends. "Many of the white students were also sensitive to these issues. But I don't know that they always understood the personal pain."

Sometimes the white students caught a glimpse of it. Walker remembers visiting a recreation hall with white friends. Though it was white-owned, only blacks were welcome. When her friends were turned away, "For a moment they were very indignant. I laughed and said 'this is what I encounter everyday.' In some ways I got a little pleasure from it. That's the kind of complexity you struggle with. Sometimes you are relieved even when other people are denied. And yet you know within your heart and moral fiber that is wrong. I wanted them to have that indignation that I had." Walker says they all grew from the experience and many became lifelong friends.

Then there was the night that RPI met the UDC. Walker, Jordan and several white friends had gathered at the Jefferson Hotel, where some of them were staying—and where the United Daughters of the Confederacy was holding a conference. The integrated group of college students attracted stares, so Walker's friends draped a black shawl around her like a royal robe. She

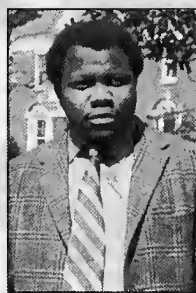


Dr. Norma Goode





**1965** First full-time black faculty hired: Dr. Regenia Perry in the School of Arts and Dr. Rizpah Welch in the School of Education



Afro-American Studies Program formed

**Dr. Grace Harris '60MSW/SW** becomes VCU's first African-American Dean, in the School of Social Work—where she had been denied admission in 1954

Dr. Harris becomes VCU's first black Academic Provost

**1966**

Beatrice Wynn elected Harvest Ball Queen by School of the Arts



RPI and MCV merged to form VCU

**1970** Jim Elam elected VCU's first black Student Government Association President

**1971** *Reflections* in Ink VCU newspaper founded, staffed by the Black Student Alliance and the League of Black Journalists

VCU's African American Alumni Council established

Dr. Harris is acting president of VCU during the summer while Dr. Eugene Trani is on sabbatical

marched slowly and regally down the mythic *Gone with the Wind* staircase while her white friends bowed repeatedly in humble deference. The murmurs of the onlookers rose in volume with the students' laughter. So, Jordan comments, "Ruby Walker became the grande dame of the South."

**Jim Elam '73 BS/SW** was one of seven young black men hit by sniper fire in Richmond in 1962. He was 17. Five of them were killed, and Elam is still partially paralyzed and walks with a cane. His experience shocked him into protest—and into an education. "It became clear to me that I could no longer use my brute strength to be a brick layer," says Elam. He realized that "African Americans as a people could only look forward to jobs that were menial. I had to speak up." In 1963, the apolitical Elam joined the NAACP and marched for civil rights. His parents worried about his safety; but Elam says, "You can't walk around being afraid of life. You might slip up, fall and die from your head hitting the curb."

Elam enrolled at VCU in 1969. "The university, when I began, was all white other than having made some token steps toward integrating the student body." Gathered around a table in the Hibbs Building's Campus Cafe, Elam and his friends discussed the upcoming 1970 Student Government Association election. They were disappointed that current student leaders didn't seem to be dealing with real issues.

The radicals mounted their campaign on "The Art of the Possible." Elam's platform included working for fair and equitable treatment of all students and improving school and community relations—especially with Oregon Hill. He wanted more student input on curriculum, hiring more minority professors and establishing an Afro-American studies program.

They didn't expect to win. Then on the way to file his petition, Elam encountered a student on the other side. "You're



Ruby Walker

kidding," the white student said, "You don't think you could win do you? This is a white school." It was just the push Elam needed to push back, hard. "After that—I just thought I could beat anybody."

Much of the support for Elam's campaign came from the School of the Arts. "You would be amazed at how much silk-screening and flyers by the thousands we used to get the message out." He took his message to small groups of students in the dormitories. "I went out to get the ones that were not involved." By a vote of 726 to 465 Elam became the first black president of VCU's SGA.

President Elam gave speeches in Shafer Court denouncing the war in Vietnam, condemning what he believed were racist practices at VCU and asking for the resignation of Richmond's Chief of Police. The Black Panther party came to Monroe Park. He says, "we brought quite a bit of turmoil to the university." VCU dealt with it. Elam graduated, more black students followed him to VCU, and more black faculty members and administrators were hired.

**Bruce Twyman '74BS/MC** was one of those students. In 1989, he and a few other alumni established the African American

Alumni Council to bring more of their fellow graduates into active involvement with VCU. "We wanted to tie the particular interests and concerns of African Americans to VCU and make a strong connection with the school, something many of us did not feel as students. We needed to establish that positive sense of warmth and welcome for African American alumni—and for students, so they will feel the connection and want to continue it."

**Gail Nottingham '82MPA/H&S**, who was the Council's second president, says the Council "continues to focus on the students who are here, to provide the nurturing they need to be successful and



Ellen Jordan



Bruce Twyman (right) and past VCUSA President Roger Nicholson '68BS/H&S

(VCU ALUMNI ACTIVITIES FILE PHOTO)



graduate. Often, we can bring something additional to the table in terms of what African American students need. And we needed to take responsibility for our own." She adds, "We were also looking outward to increase support for VCU from the African American alumni."

Perhaps President Grace Harris has the most dramatic sense of times changing. "From a university that four decades ago would not admit a highly-qualified student because she was black," Harris says, "VCU has now become a university where that same student has moved on to become the Dean of the School of Social Work in 1982, then in 1990 Vice Provost for Continuing Studies and Public Service, then Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs in 1992, and, most recently, Acting President for the summer of 1995. While each of these appointments represents great advances in my career, becoming dean was the most significant accomplishment and personal victory for me given the complete turn of events it entailed."



Jim Elam



Gail Nottingham (right) with current AAAC President Michelle Jones '87BS/H&S (VCU ALUMNI ACTIVITIES FILE PHOTO)

RPI was indeed a different kind of school. Because of that, a core of RPI faculty, students, and staff were ready to deal with racial issues early on, in an unofficial and quiet way. As Ed Peeples comments, "A lot of RPI students were older, more mature, worked and knew what the world was like." Their legacy is an essential trait in VCU's character today, its diversity. One of VCU's strengths is its varied student body with the largest minority enrollment—16 percent African American, 10 percent other minorities—of any of Virginia's traditionally white universities and its strongly diverse faculty—5 percent African American, 7 percent other minorities—and administration—12 percent African American, 2 percent other minorities.

In social work, in the arts and other disciplines, individuals at RPI reached out for change and toward each other. For many of them, as Ruby Walker says, the values of social justice and democracy "were in the hearts of the people."

GLORIA THOMAS IS A RICHMOND FREELANCE WRITER AND AN HONORS PROGRAM ALUMNA—SEE PAGE 8. MARY ELLEN MERCER IS EDITOR OF *SHAFFER COURT CONNECTIONS*.

PHOTOGRAPHY (EXCEPT WHERE INDICATED) BY DENNIS McWATERS. HISTORIC PHOTOS COURTESY OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES, JAMES BRANCH CABELL LIBRARY, VCU.

**NOTE:** IN TELLING THE STORIES OF THESE ALUMNI, WE REGRET THAT WE RAN OUT OF SPACE FOR THEIR CREDITS AS PROFESSIONALS AND ACTIVISTS, WHICH ARE SUBSTANTIAL.

## REFLECTING ON OUR TIMES

Where are we now? Was it worth the pain? Do you see that your struggle has made a difference—for your children and others? Alumni shared these personal reflections.

Though Ruby Walker had shared much of her past with her daughter, she realized only recently that "I had not really told her too much about the pain of my own childhood and the segregated days." Willie Dell says, "Going through integration was like going through labor—you remember that it happened but you don't remember the pain. When I look back on it now, I remember my wonderful friends."

Grace Harris, acting president of VCU this summer, sees the world of higher education as certainly more open now than in 1954. "Probably women and minorities won't have as many hoops to go through. The institutions are more receptive to them."

Jim Elam would like to see more cooperation. "We live in this world together," he says. "What's good for me is going to be good for you and vice-versa." But, he continues, "Where segregation has occurred, you can see how it has made the community more dysfunctional." Ed Peeples adds, "Even though blacks today did not experience the same humiliations, every little subtle message of each successive generation piles up."

Walker is concerned that "many young talented people who have finished school still can't find jobs. Resources now seem to be for building more jails instead of building people. The black experience has been that the Freedman's Bureau took Lumpkin's slave jail in 1867 and converted it into The Richmond Institute, which moved to a new site in 1870 and ultimately became Virginia Union University."

Dell says she cautions her son, "You have to be aware of who you are and where you are if you are black and male and in America. You are always threatened. You will always need some community around you—people who have a shared sense of history and heritage. You will not be recognized for your own merits. It is sad to say it has not changed that much."

"Things are worse today," Ellen Jordan says bluntly. "There is a new brand of racism. You can't pinpoint it. It's harder to fight."

Walker feels that scarce resources—"and I mean emotional, not just material resources—are making people more fearful and self-protective. They don't really give that lifelong commitment to the struggle."

"Some of the negatives of the past got transformed into very positive character-building," says Jordan of her own emotional investment. "It was agony. But it does help me understand groups and myself better. And after I have walked and protested to see that black people would be treated equally, I'm not ever going to accept any less—on any level—from anybody."

Norma Goode feels, "We would like to be able now to close some of those gaps, without having to go through the pain of defending who we are."

Walker reflects, "We need to look at who benefits from our scars; who benefits from our pain. If generations who come behind me can have opportunities and doors more widely opened for them, then I think the struggle has been worth it."

*Other alumni will have memories from these times and reflections of their own; please join the conversation. Write to Shafer Court Connections, P.O. Box 843044, Richmond, VA 23284. Email to [mercer@cabell.vcu.edu](mailto:mercer@cabell.vcu.edu).*

# ALUMNET

## 1940s

**R.H. Langley Wood '49BS/H&S** writes fiction in Elon, VA.

## 1950s

\***Elaine Ackman '54BS/H&S** and her daughter Amy are co-owners of Amy's Custom Yogurt on Grace Street near the VCU campus.

## 1960s

**Bill Beville '65BS/SW** was recognized as Top Sales Performer and Top Manuscript Performer in 1994 by publisher Simon & Schuster's Higher Education Division at the company's national sales meeting in Tucson in January.

**Robin Blankenship '68BM/A** married Jean Ottwell on November 26 in Colonial Heights, VA. Robin owns and operates Piano Master Service in Matoaca, VA.

\***Dianne Bynum '67MS/E** is executive director of March of Dimes, Texas Gulf Coast Chapter in Houston.

**Marshall Dowdy '69MS/B** received a doctorate in marketing from Virginia Tech.

**Carole Ewart '68MS/H&S** is an internal organizational development consultant for Pilgrim Health Care Inc. in Norwell, MA. Carole is also an adjunct faculty member at Lesley College's School of Management in Cambridge, MA.

**Beverly Glazer '66BS/H&S** received a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling from Florida State University. Beverly owns Nomads Art Gallery in Tallahassee, FL.

**Sandy Grabman '68AS/B** founded House of Esther, Inc., a non-profit employment agency for teens, senior citizens and people with disabilities in Duncan, OH. Sandy is also business manager and financial secretary for First United Methodist Church.

**William Johnson '69BS/B** was awarded an associate in automation management diploma by the Insurance Institute of America. William is senior

programmer-analyst in the National Processing Center for The Atlantic Mutual Companies in Roanoke.

\***William Perdue '60MS/H&S** retired from Virginia Department of Corrections as a criminal psychologist in Richmond.

**Leonita Pharr '65BFA/A** is an artist in Waynesboro, VA. Leonita also maintains a studio at Shenandoah Valley Art Center.

**Raymond Ratcliffe '69BS/E** was promoted to vice president at Union Bank & Trust in Bowling Green to manage their mortgage loan department.

**Stan Sweeney '65BFA/A** is president of Sweeney & Farrow, Inc., an advertising agency in Richmond, where he lives with wife **Arlene Brown Sweeney '65BS/SW** and their two children.

\***Robert Thornton '68BS/B** was named vice president of Thalhimers' Real Estate downtown Norfolk office.

**Jack Witt '67MFA/A** and his wife Judy exhibited their art at the Shenandoah Valley Art Center in February.

\***Milt Woody '67BS/E** was promoted to dean of admissions, registration and financial aid at St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley in 1993. Milt was VCU's director of financial aid from 1967-69.

## 1970s

**Sylvia Asten '77BFA/A** is an artist in Missoula, MT. Her work was featured on the cover of the April/May 1994 issue of *The Mountain Astrologer*.

**Linda Atkinson '75BFA/A** exhibited her work at the Allegheny Highlands Arts & Crafts Center in Clifton Forge, VA. Linda is president of Artemis/Artists and Writers of the Blue Ridge.

\***Ken Bryant '73BS/SW** was recently promoted to operations and management consultant with the Department of Labor in Gainesville, FL.

**Roland Burgess '76BS/B** is executive officer of Joint Task Force 160 in Cuba with the U.S. Marines.

**Robert W. Clark II '74BS/B** is an audit manager with Manning, Perkinson, Floyd & Co. in Danville, VA.

\***Colin Connelly '79BA/H&S** is a real estate attorney in Chesterfield.

\***Phyllis Cothran '71BS/B**, president and chief operating officer of Trigon Blue Cross Blue Shield, was recently elected member of the board of directors of Ethyl Corporation in Richmond. Phyllis also serves on VCU's Business School Council.

**Debra Crisp '72AS/B** received an associate's degree in nursing from Wake Technical Community College in Raleigh, NC. Debra was class valedictorian and was honored with an Academic Achievement Award. She and her husband Jimmy live in Raleigh with their daughter Abbie.

**Jim Crotty '71BS/H&S** is senior special agent for the U.S. Customs Service in Glynnco, GA. His daughter Megan is a freshman at North Carolina Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount, NC. Jim and his wife **Victoria '73BS/H&S** live on St. Simons Island, GA with their children Kevin and Blake.

**Joseph Curtin '70BA/H&S** received a medal of merit from Ohio University for outstanding contributions to philanthropy. He received the Royal Order of the Crown, 2nd Class, from the king of Thailand. He received presidential recognition with a dinner invitation

to the White House as the director of the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) emergency relief program in Somalia. Joseph has a master's degree in international affairs from Ohio University and is director of major giving at CRS in Baltimore, MD.

**Mary Lou Deal '67BFA '72MFA/A** was featured in the November 1994 issue of *Ceramics Monthly*, highlighting two of her handbuilt vases purchased for public collections—one of which is featured in the Ambulatory Care Building at MCV Hospitals.

\***Norris Edgerton '72MS/B** is president of Edgerton Associates, Inc. in Chase City. He and his wife Barbara Ann have four children and four grandchildren.

**Winford Fowlkes '74BS/B** named Outstanding Army Junior Reserve Officer by the Virginia department of the Reserve Officers Association. He is also one of ten finalists in the national ROA competition.

**Susan Smith Frank '78BFA/A** is vice president and central region sales manager of Barnett Merchant Services Corporation in Orlando, FL, where she lives with her husband George.

\***Joyce Fuller '77BS/E** married James Bernard Coles on March 11 in Callands, VA. Joyce is a first grade teacher for Pittsylvania County Public Schools. The couple lives in Axton, VA.

**Daniel Gill '72BS/B** is director of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization at The Pentagon in Washington, DC.

## CHALK UP AWARDS FOR ALUMNI TEACHERS!

Alumni who won 1994 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching are **Ann Maddin Zyglocie '87BS/E** who teaches science at Crestwood Elementary School in Richmond and **James Grover Jenkins '76BS '80MED/E**, a science teacher at South Jefferson Elementary in Charles Town, WV. They received their awards and congratulations from the White House in Washington at the National Museum of Natural History on April 27.

In Richmond, three alumni won R.E.B. Foundation awards for Teaching Excellence, which fund further study for a classroom topic **Judith Genier '68BS/E**, at Bensley Elementary, received \$5,000 to study the flora and fauna of Australia. **Angela Pickels '83MA/H&S**, at Monacan High School, received \$8,500 to study the history of the Vietnam War by visiting Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and other parts of Vietnam. **Warren Shelton '84BS/E**, at Midlothian Middle School, received \$6,000 to conduct an analysis in freshwater biology.

**Ann Middleton Peters '72BS/E** was selected as 1994 Teacher of the Year from Rock Springs Elementary School in Apopka, FL, where she teaches second grade. **Linda Moore '75MS/SW** is one of three recipients of the annual Deans' Teaching Awards of \$2,500 each from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. Linda is an associate professor and director of TCU's social work program.



## SPIRITED EVENING IN NORFOLK

Nearly 300 alumni and their guests from the Greater Hampton Roads area (including Tidewater and the Peninsula) enjoyed a party cruise aboard the Spirit of Norfolk on



Wednesday, March 15th. Alumni listened to live jazz, enjoyed a fabulous evening view of the downtown

Norfolk and Portsmouth waterfronts, and heard about exciting developments on the academic and medical campuses from President Eugene P. Trani. Response was so overwhelming that VCU alumni filled the entire ship. More than 4,000 VCU, MCV and RPI alumni currently live in the Greater Hampton Roads area.



**Stephen Griffin '77BS/E** is planning director for Spotsylvania County.

**Jesse Harrup Jr. '75BS/B** earned the Certified Government Financial Manager certification from the Association of Government Accountants. Jesse is assistant comptroller at the Virginia Department of Corrections in Richmond.

**Marsha Heatwole '78BFA/A** exhibited her work at the Lynchburg Fine Arts Center. Marsha is an artist in Lexington, VA.

**Cheryl Fornash Hoffman '73BS/B** is vice president and partner in her family-owned business, Fornash Fine Jewelry in

Richmond. Before joining the family business, Cheryl received a master's degree in school administration from UVA, and spent eighteen years as a National Marketing Representative for IBM. She lives with her son, James, in Mechanicsville, VA.

**Patrick Johnson '76BS/H&S** was named General District Court Judge by Virginia's General Assembly. Johnson closed his private law practice in Grundy, VA before his judgeship began in April. He and his wife Sandy live in Slate Creek, VA with their two children, Zachary and Casey.

**Raymond Jurgel Jr. '77BS/B** is engaged to Dr. Mary Diane Zelli. Raymond works in the nuclear purchasing department of Virginia Power in Richmond. The couple plan to marry on June 3.

**Adele Karp '74MS/SW** is a licensed clinical social worker in Richmond. She was featured in *Style Weekly* for forming a support group for adults with attention deficit disorder.

**William Leighty '79MBA/B** was appointed director of the Virginia Retirement System in January.

**Susan MacDonald '79BM/A** is a first-year law student at The Dickinson School of Law in Carlisle, PA.

**Richard McCann '72BA/H&S** is co-director of the MFA program in creative writing at American University in Washington DC. Richard is the author of *Ghost Letters*, which received the 1994 Beatrice Hawley Award and the 1993 Capricorn Poetry Award. His new novel, *Mother of Sorrow*, will be published in the fall.

**Keith Miller '77BS/H&S** is an account executive at Allstate Insurance Company in Ellicott City, MD. Keith is a former criminal investigations agent for the Department of Defense in Richmond.

**Nancy Minogue '76MS/H&S** is editorial board chairwoman for *The Northern Virginia Review*, the literary magazine of Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA). Nancy is also participating in a photography exhibit at the Cultural Center on NOVA's Annandale Campus, showing her portraits of steeplechase jockeys.

**Roger Neathawk '61BS/P '78MS/B** was recently elected second vice chairman of the Easter Seal Society of Virginia's board of directors for the 1994-95 fiscal year. Roger is chairman and CEO of Market Strategies, Inc. in Richmond.

**David Norris '77MA/H&S** has two poems in the 1994 *Dan River Anthology*, "Hymn Joo's Lover" and "This Is Paradise." David is currently living in Seoul, Korea.

**Sheldon Nordin '74BS/B** received a master of business administration degree from Averett College in Danville, VA.

**John Ortiz '74BS/H&S** is a licensed psychologist with Capital Psychiatric & Psychological Associates in Harrisburg, PA.

**E. Douglas Pratt '76MS/SW** published *Fostering and Adopting the Child Who Has Been Sexually Abused* in 1994, and the book has been adopted for statewide training in Kentucky. Douglas is a consultant trainer for The Child Welfare Institute, Inc. in Atlanta, GA. He and his wife Margaret Moloney live in Decatur, GA.

**Predry Drew Ray '75BS/H&S** is executive director at the Task Force For Historic Preservation and the Minority Community in Richmond, where he lives with his wife Cassandra and their two children.

**Duffy Regan '76BFA/A** runs her own residential and commercial interior design business from her home in Sydney, Australia, where she lives with her husband Kevin and their two children.

**Monique Reilly '79BS/H&S** is a law librarian for the Virginia State Corporation Commission in Richmond. Monique is a member of the Virginia Association of Law Librarians.

**James Roane '79BS/B** is assistant manager of student accounting at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He received an MBA from Eastern Michigan University in 1989. James lives in Ypsilanti with his wife Rose, who is expecting their second child in August, and their daughter Taylor.

**Karl Saliba '74BS/H&S** and his wife Donna had their first child, Catherine Marie, on April 25, 1994. Karl and Donna are optometrists practicing in Roanoke.

**Marsha Shuler '79MA/B** was named vice president at The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond in January.

**Prince Thompson '72BS/B** and his wife Cathy '75BS/E are pleased to announce that their daughter Ashley has been selected to be included in Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. Ashley is a senior at James Madison University, and plans to attend medical school majoring in neo-natal pediatrics.

**J. Randolph Vass '75MS '73BS/H&S** is senior consulting

actuary with Alexander & Alexander consulting Group in Philadelphia.

**Owen Wachter '78BS/H&S** is multimedia manager at The Martin Agency in Richmond.

**David Walrond '78BS/H&S** is president and owner of Home Oil & Gas Company in Hot Springs, VA. David is also on the board of directors with Bath County Chamber of Commerce, Shenandoah Valley Travel Association, and a member of the governing board of The Blue Ridge Region of Virginia.

**W. Terry Whisnant '79AS/H&S** was the keynote speaker for "A Night of Hearty Laughter" sponsored by the Suffolk Chapter of the American Heart Association. Terry is a professor of psychology at Southside Virginia Community College in Midlothian, VA, where he lives.

## 1980s

**Carl Ackerman '69BA '89MSW/SW**, a licensed clinical social worker, and his wife **Darlene '75MS '88C/AH**, a licensed professional counselor, have a part-time counseling service working with adolescents, adults and family/ marital therapy in Caroline County, VA.

**Peggy Adams '86BGS/CS** was recently elected to serve on the advisory board for the W.H.O. (Women Helping Others) Foundation. Peggy is an executive director and skin care/image consultant with BeautiControl Cosmetics where she was recently named one of their top 10 executive directors for 1994.

**Jennifer Alcantara '89BS/B** married Chris Bertagnolli on October 1 in Norfolk. Jennifer is a computer programmer analyst, and Chris is a management analyst with the Department of Defense. The couple lives in Fairfax, VA.

**William Allison III '82BFA/A**, a representative for Artec Consultants Inc., a theatrical master-planning agency, is currently working in Richmond with The Firehouse Theatre Project to convert the former Engine Company No. 10 into a theater.

**David Lee Anderson '86BS/H&S** received a master's degree in education from Middle Tennessee State University in May, 1994.

**William Bacote '86MS/H&S** was recently promoted to manager of payroll and human resources information for Albemarle Corporation. William and his wife



# BRINGING A CULTURE TO LIGHT

## Jon Waybright '90BS/H&S

BY JOHN SARVAY '94BGS/NTS

"Philistine civilization." It's a great oxymoron, which shows what 3500 years of bad press can do. The Bible portrays the Philistines as the ultimate bad guys. After all, Goliath was a Philistine and a bully. The Philistines stole the Ark of the Covenant. And so it is written. But after years of archeological digging in Ashkelon under the Israeli sun, Jon Waybright, an Honors Program graduate in philosophy and religious studies, sees the ancient seafaring culture in a different light.

"What we're learning from sites like Ashkelon is that the Philistines built great cities, that they made beautiful pottery, and that they made wine and textiles while the Israelites were still in the hills. From both an archeological and Biblical perspective, the work here is helping create a new picture of the Philistines," he says. The work also is helping Waybright create the perfect complement to his continuing studies in ancient history and religion. He credits VCU religious studies professor Cliff Edwards and history professor Robert Talbert with his hands-on approach to studying.

"They encouraged me to look outside of VCU for college credit, so in 1988 I volunteered for an excavation through Harvard," Waybright says. That first summer, he paid his own way, and the experience obviously made an impression on him. This summer will be his sixth season digging at Harvard's Leon Levy Excavation at Ashkelon.

"I spent two years volunteering at the site, then Harvard picked up my airfare in my third year and asked me to be on staff in 1992. I wasn't really in love with archeology at first—there's a lot of continuous physical labor involved—but I knew the experience with Harvard would be good. By the second year, I began to really enjoy it," Waybright explains.

The site at Ashkelon seems ideal for a student of religion and ancient cultures. "From a religious perspective, Ashkelon is one of the five great cities of the Philistines, who wandered into the area around the 13th or 14th century B.C.E. (Before the Common Era). Today, it is the only city in southern Israel right on the coast.

"The excavation itself is one of the largest and most exciting sites in

Israel. Ashkelon has a continuous history stretching back to 4000 B.C.E., so students and scholars really can pick their history. If you like Canaanite history (the Bronze Age), you can dig there. If you're interested in Persian remains or Hellenistic-Roman remains, you can find those there."

The site itself stretches in a horseshoe-like arc across 150 acres and is surrounded by ramparts constructed in the Bronze Age. Archeologists concentrate their attention on two large mounds, which Waybright says contain different remains at each layer. Because of Ashkelon's strategic value—it boasted a large underground spring and a harbor—the city was constantly resettled. Unfortunately, the archeologists are colliding with a modern consumer culture in their attempts to clarify their understanding of ancient cultures.

"Even with 5000 years of history underfoot, we haven't been able to find the harbor. We know there was a harbor in Ashkelon; it was a major trading city. There is a Club Med right where we think the harbor is located, but the resort won't let us dig through their tennis courts," Waybright says.

For the hundreds of student volunteers that flock to Ashkelon, the coastal location is a plus, but Waybright says the emphasis at the site is on field work and teaching.

"Every summer, we get 150 to 200 student volunteers in field school here. The excavation schedule runs from June through August, so for several months they are awake by 4:30 a.m., at the site by 5 a.m. and finished by 1 p.m. But then everyone goes back to the site at 4 p.m. to wash pottery until about 6 p.m. That's followed by a lecture," says Waybright. It's hours of sweaty labor followed by heady lectures from top faculty and archeologists from Harvard, as well as scholars from around the world who visit the site and agree to speak to the students.

And though Waybright has moved into a supervisory and teaching position on-site during the summer, he's still very much the student. Currently, he's pursuing his master's in biblical studies at Boston University, which places him next door to Harvard. After that, there's a PhD in his future, he says.

"I want to continue digging and I want to teach. I'd love to come back to VCU and teach," he says. "I feel very comfortable there. I sort of like the offbeat atmosphere. It really puts a nice twist on learning."

JOHN SARVAY IS A RICHMOND FREELANCE WRITER AND EDITOR OF *PLANET*, A MONTHLY TRAVEL MAGAZINE.

Debra have relocated to Baton Rouge, LA with their three children.

**John Beall '84BA/H&S** was recently promoted to assistant vice president with Signet Bank in Richmond.

**Darlene Bell '86BS/H&S** married Keith Ingram on October 2 in Newport News, where they live. Darlene is Mental Health Case Manager for the Hampton-Newport News Community Service Board.

**Liza Bouroujian '89BA/H&S** is a technical analyst in the production services division at Crestar Bank in Richmond.

**Mary Bruce '88BS/H&S** is a claims adjuster with Sentry Insurance in Richmond.

**\*Agnes Cain '86MS/E** recently featured in the *Richmond-Times Dispatch* for donating 30 hours a week to various charitable organizations. Agnes is a board member for Adult Care Services and their current chairwoman, a 12-year volunteer veteran with the Greater Richmond Chapter of the American Red Cross, and also heads the volunteer committee of Stargate, an arts program for 6- and 7-year-olds at risk. Agnes worked as a professional recreation organizer and chose to take break in her career to dedicate her time to helping others.

**Bradford Carden '81BS/B** was named vice president at The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond in January.

**Beth Cartwright '87BS/H&S** is an investor service representative and administrative assistant in the human resources department at Janus Funds in Denver, CO.

**\*Michael Chaney '81BS/H&S** is management supervisor at Avrett Free & Ginsberg in New York City.



LLOYD DAVIES

*Clean sweep. The advantage of computer "painting," says Lloyd Davies '51BFA/A, is "no washing out brushes." Davies uses Adobe Photoshop to turn his photographs, mostly landscapes, into oil paintings or watercolors. His retirement hobby got some unexpected attention when 20 of his pictures were the first show in America Online's juried Fine Art Gallery this year. AOL users can reach the gallery by keying in artists and choosing library option.*

**Lisa Chavis '88BS/B** married Algie Gregory on October 22 in Petersburg. Lisa works at TSC Inc, and Algie works at Reynolds Metals Co. in Richmond, where the couple lives.

**Ted Costin '86MURP/H&S** is town manager of Elkton, VA.

**\*Kevin Connors '82BS/H&S** is a weeknight sports anchor at Shadow Broadcast services in Rutherford, NJ.

**Sara Cowherd '83BFA/A** is an associate of Baskerville & Son, P.C. and was recently appointed by Governor Allen to serve a 4-year term on the Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, Landscape Architects and Interior Designers—for which she was elected chairwoman.

**Lawonna Daves '82BA/H&S** opened a law practice, Daves and Associates, in Richmond after grad-

uating from the University of San Francisco Law School in 1992.

**Michael Dawson '89BS/H&S** married Kathryn Cables on August 13 in Fredericksburg. Michael is an artist and design specialist for the Virginia Department of Transportation. The couple live in Spotsylvania.

**Ann Dineen '89MS/SW** is director of foster care and admission services at Family Advocacy Services of Virginia in Alexandria, VA.

**Robert Dufour '88MS/B** is president of National Card Control Inc. in Richmond.

**Juli Duncan '83BA/H&S** is senior copyeditor at Time-Life Books. Her second child, a daughter, was born May 14, 1994.

**Loretta Dunn '86MS/SW** has a private practice as a clinical social worker in Falls Church, VA where she lives with her husband Alan. Their daughter Joy received a BFA degree from VCU in 1992.

**\*Douglas Earhart '86BA/H&S** was promoted to Major in the U.S. Army. Douglas and his wife Michelle, who recently completed her second year of nursing school at Georgia Baptist College, live in Atlanta, GA with their two dogs and four cats.

**Caroline Eby '88BS/H&S** is a technical planner/coordinator for Stephenson Printing in Arlington, VA. She is also a founding member of the Craft Club of Northern Virginia.

**Kenneth Ender '73BS/B '88PhD/E** was recently named an American Council on Education Fellow for 1994-95. The fellowship provides higher education professionals the opportunity to study college/university administration with a host institution for one year. Kenneth is associate vice president at Cleveland State University.

**\*Joyce Eisner-Leverenz '82BME/A '88MS/AH** is a vocational coordinator at The Institute for Rehabilitation & Research in Houston, TX where she lives with her husband, Doug. Joyce also plays the clarinet in two Houston community bands.

**Trent Farr '89BS/H&S** is senior copywriter for Milici Valenti Ng Pack Advertising in Honolulu, HI.

**Robin Fisher '82BS/H&S** is currently working on her master of divinity degree at Eastern Seminary in Philadelphia. She and her husband, Rev. J. Timothy Fisher, live in Coatesville, PA.

**Dianna Flaherty '85BA/H&S** works at This End Up in Colonial Heights, VA. She is a member of the

Daughters of the American Revolution and the Chester Business Association.

**Wes Freed '88BFA/A** was featured in *Style Weekly* for his work as a designer at The Chicken's Roost in Richmond.

**Linda Fritsch '81MS/E** is corporate compliance officer with First Bank & Trust in Abingdon, VA.

**\*Patrick Geary '84BS/B** was named to the 1995-96 edition of Who's Who in the South and Southwest. Patrick is division head of the Office of Security for the Department of the Navy.

**Christine Fernandez '88BS/H&S** married James George in October. Christine is a teacher for Newport News Public Schools.

**\*James Gladden '89MS/H&S** is an aquatic ecology supervisor for Ett Environmental, Inc. in Greenville, SC.

**Susan Goetcheus '89BA/H&S** married Richard Marshall on October 15 in Newport News. The couple lives in Raleigh, NC.

**Robert Gogal '82BS/H&S** and his wife Nancy '82BS/AH had a son, Nicholas Alexander, on December 27.

**Penelope Gretes '86BFA/A** married Eugene Maurakis on November 19 in Norfolk. Penelope works for Virginia Beach General Hospital and Eugene is a staff scientist with the Science Museum of Virginia in Richmond, where they live.

**Linda Henderson '82BS/E** married Franky Smith on December 30 in Newport News. The couple live in Alabama.

**C. David Hudgins '82BS/B** is director of economic development for Spotsylvania County. He and his wife Lori live in Fredericksburg with their daughter Jennifer Lee.

**Nancy Israel '79BS/SW '86MS/H&S** is executive director of the Virginia State Apple Board.

**\*Tammy Jones '84BS/H&S** is a public affairs specialist for NASA in Washington.

**Jo Anne Jordan '80BS '82MS/B** married Timothy Britt, October 15 in Prince George, VA. Jo Anne works for Computer Sciences Corporation, and Timothy owns T.L. Britt Carpentry in Petersburg, where they live.

**Edward Lachcik '86BS/H&S** married Kathleen Needham '87BS/D on October 22 in Spotsylvania County. Edward is vice president of Bangston's Fuel, and Kathleen works for Dr. David Pasco in Hampton Bays, VA where the couple live.

**R. Steven Landes '84BS/MC** married Angela Hochmeister on

## NOW WE'RE COOKIN'

On April 1, the VCU Alumni Association hosted the annual cook-out for new students accepted for Fall 1995 and their parents and friends. Guests enjoyed hot dogs and jazz by VCU music students at Now We're Cookin'.

VCUAA also held spring receptions for 500 prospective students and their families in Fairfax, Norfolk and Fredericksburg.



*Compliments to the Chefs. Thanks to Ken Magill '65BS/B '69 MS/E, Marsha Shuler '74BS '79MA/B, and Dan and Joan Rexinger '86BGS/NTS behind the grill.*





*Tides of students. Sandra Parker '89BS/MCV and David Benson '89BS '91MS/MC field questions from prospective Tidewater students and families at a reception in Norfolk in March. Students heard about VCU from alumni, faculty and staff.*

October 1 in Harrisonburg, VA. Steven is district director for U.S. Rep. Robert Goodlatte in Roanoke and Angela is an assistant commonwealth's attorney for Harrisonburg/Rockingham County.

**James Laws Jr. '86MPA/H&S** was named board executive of the Virginia Department of Education. He will be the liaison between the state superintendent and members of the Board of Education.

**Jesse S. Lennon III '87BS '88MBA/B** is the principal broker and co-owner of Pioneer Realty in Richmond.

**Mindy Lovalvo '80BFA/A** is a full-time mom to her three children Eric, Kara and Melanie in Ellicott City, MD.

**Constance Mack '81BS/E** is an elementary school principal with Hampton City Schools.

**Stephen Melton '87BS/B** and his wife Lisa had their second son, Conner, in February. Stephen is enrolled in the Fast Track Executive MBA program at VCU, and is also manager of produce merchandising for Ukrops Supermarkets.

**Michael McOsler '80MS/MC** married Elizabeth Knaus on October 8 in Virginia Beach. Michael is a commercial realtor with The Katsias Company, and Elizabeth is a department manager with Virginia Beach Federal Savings Bank.

**\*Monique Mercer '87BA/H&S** is a research analyst in the research and development department at the American Public Welfare Association in Washington, D.C.

**Elizabeth Morford '88BFA/A** married Aaron Schnore in March. Elizabeth is an assistant accountant for Elwood Thompson's Natural Market in Richmond.

**Anna Morgan '89BS/B** married Franklin Chambers on October 22 in Newport News. Anna is assistant supervisor for customer service at NationsBank, and Franklin is a

chief petty officer in the U.S. Navy. The couple live in Newport News.

**\*Paul Murman Jr. '89MS/B** was appointed to the Technical Issues Committee, an advocacy arm of the Private Companies Practice Section of the American Institute of CPAs. Paul is a partner at Mitchell, Wiggins & Company in Richmond.

**\*Florence Muse '80BGS/CS** is a teacher, lay evangelist, and weekly columnist for the *Northern Neck News* in Colonial Beach, VA.

**H. Carter Myers III '81MBA/B** is president and CEO of Carter Myers & Associates in Chester. The 70-year-old automotive company was started in 1924 by his grandfather, H. Carter Myers Sr.

**Gerald Oster '81PhD/H&S** is author of newly released book, *Helping Your Depressed Teenager: A Guide for Parents and Care Givers*. Gerald teaches at the University of Maryland Medical School at Baltimore.

**John Payne '89PhD/E** is interim pastor at Great Bridge Presbyterian Church in Chesapeake, VA.

**Robert Pinkerton '89MBA/B** was recently appointed as deputy county manager for community operations for Henrico County. Robert is responsible for Henrico's public utilities, public works and recreation.

**Louis Poole '82BFA/A** and **Jane Timshle '88MFA/A** were featured in *The Voice* newspaper for their painting and sculpture exhibits during October at the 1708 Gallery in Richmond.

**John Powell '80BFA/A** married Erin Ratliff of Richmond in March. John is vice president and general manager of Image Impact Advertising.

**Stacy Queensberry '84BS/H&S** is a belt merchandiser with Liz Claiborne in New York City. Stacy previously worked as senior product manager for men's belts

and accessories for Polo (Ralph Lauren).

**Marc Ramsey '85MFA/A** is director of dramatic interpretation for The Valentine Museum in Richmond.

**Donna Reynolds '87BS/B** is regional director of Piedmont Area American Lung Association of Virginia.

**Virginius Rosson '81BS/B** was named vice president at The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond in January.

**Margaret (Peg) Ruggiero '76MS/E '87MS/SW** conducted statewide training on "The Needs of Children with Incarcerated Parents." Peg is program coordinator of the Prison Visitation Project in Richmond.

**Loretta Sanderson '81BS/H&S** is a junior accountant in the corporate accounting department at Southern States. Loretta is enrolled in VCU's post-baccalaureate certificate program in accounting.

**Jane Santos '84BS/H&S** is a banking officer and branch manager at Fleet Bank of Massachusetts.

**Dywana Saunders '81BFA/A** married William Confroy Jr. on October 23 in Richmond. Alumni in the wedding party were **Augustine Saunders Allen '74BS/N**, **Lois B. Hunnicutt '81BA/H&S**, **Sally Confroy Gehl '89MS/AH(G)**, **Teresa Roane '88BA/H&S**, **Wirt Confroy '92BA/A**, and **Lucien Roberts III '87MS/AH (HA)**. Both Dywana and William work at Boatwright Memorial Library at the University of Richmond.

**Theresa Shibley-Owen '88BS/B** is a member of Goodman & Company, L.L.P., a certified public accounting firm in Newport News.

**\*Kermit Skinner Jr. '88BS/H&S** is town manager for the Town of Manteo, NC. Kermit was accepted into the American Institute of Certified Planners on July 1. He lives in Kill Devil Hills, NC.

**J. Boyd Spencer '82MS/E** was recently elected vice president of Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia. Boyd is also a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve. He and his wife Lois have three children, two of whom will graduate this summer from VCU.

**Karla Stone '89BS/B** married Brian Couch on September 17 in Richmond. Karla owns ASC Accounting Services in Richmond, where the couple lives.

**Cathy Taylor '89MBA/B** was promoted to director of environ-

## VCU Doer Carol McCoy '79Cert/B

**Doing:** In July 1988, McCoy was made a partner in KPMG Peat Marwick's U.S. firm. McCoy became one of the first two women partners in a Richmond big eight office, and the first School of Business alumna to be a partner in a national accounting firm. At Peat Marwick, her specialty is tax services.



Honors Council member since 1989 and its chairwoman since 1991, she has seen a new director installed, enrollment triple and private funding increase. The committee has raised \$50,000 a year for the past three years, much of it for scholarships. Also served on the VCU Alumni Association Board and serves on the Accounting Advisory Council.

**Quote:** "The Honors Program adds to VCU's prestige, attracting excellent students and helping them feel at home in such a large, diverse university. And I'm really impressed with VCU's focus on serving the people in the Richmond area. When I look at UVA, Virginia Tech or William and Mary, I don't see them serving the community."

DAVID BENSON '91BS  
'94MS/MC

mental services at Reynolds Metals in Richmond.

**James Taylor III '87BGS/CS** is corporate security manager at Reynolds Metals in Richmond.

**Bruce Thomas '88BS/B** was promoted to vice president and cashier at the Bank of Essex.

**Greg Turner '87BS/H&S** received a master's degree in geography from Hunter College and taught physical geography lab classes there. Greg is pursuing a second master's degree in science education at Teachers College, Columbia University.

# CIRCLE OF LIFE

## Ann Cottrell Free

BY JEAN HUETS '80BA/H&S

Division of William and Mary (later RPI and VCU) in 1934-36. "I can't think of a better faculty," she says. Her French teacher, Margaret Johnson, "had an enormous influence on me." Free finished her degree at Barnard, Johnson's alma mater, although she says now, "I think I got a better education at William and Mary in Richmond." She mentions drama teacher Alice Jorg and English teachers Dr. Samuel McCoy and his wife Doris McCoy, who "pounded the writing into me." In 1936, sophomore Ann Cottrell won third place in the international Pan-Hellenic essay contest on "Why I Should See New York." They gave her New York, and she took the world.

Free began her career at the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. An early assignment was an interview with contralto Marian Anderson just after her historic concert from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in 1939. Managers of Constitution Hall had refused to let Anderson sing there because she was black.

Free was the first full-time woman Washington correspondent for the *New York Herald Tribune*, *Newsweek* and the *Chicago Sun*. She didn't languish politely on the women's pages, either. Of her job at the *Herald Tribune*, she says nonchalantly, "I thought they ought to have a woman correspondent in Washington."

Free reported on the Roosevelt administration—and the nine administrations that followed. She covered all aspects of World War II and the post-war years. She chaired Eleanor Roosevelt's press conference association. She was at the White House when Truman was sworn in. When F.D.R. died in 1945, she says, "It seemed the light went out in Washington."

Covering Washington meant covering the world, and Free followed the stories. She interviewed Mrs. Roosevelt in Geneva while the Declaration of Human Rights was framed by the United Nations. She reported from Europe on post-war conditions and the effects of the Marshall Plan. As a special U.N. correspondent in China in 1946, she covered the war's devastation, focusing on the Chinese government's diversion of relief food from famine victims.

Free saw first-hand the break up of Chiang Kai-shek's China and saw the early stages of war in Indo-China. (She warned then that the United States should never get involved in the conflict that later blew up into the Vietnam War.) Free was in Israel at the birth of the modern Hebrew nation. She attended Ghandi's prayer meetings and saw Britain's Lord Mountbatten pass the rule of India to Prime Minister Nehru.

When Free finally returned home, she continued her career, covering the White House, Joe McCarthy and "red-baiting," the civil rights movement, the environment and animal protection issues. She also married her colleague, James Free, whom she had met in Richmond when they both worked at the *Times-Dispatch*. Their daughter Elissa has followed her parents into news but updated the medium; she is a producer at CNN.

Free's mother, Emily Blake Cottrell, was the inspiration for what she considers the most meaningful activity of her professional life—advocacy for environmental and animal protection. "My mother worked at the SPCA in Richmond for novelist Ellen Glasgow, who was SPCA president then. I always had an intense interest in animals."

Free was a pioneer in covering and promoting animal protection in the 1960s when no federal animal protection laws existed. Her work calling for humane treatment of laboratory animals earned her the Albert Schweitzer Medal in 1963, an honor she cherishes. Her novel on the wild horses of Mongolia, *Forever the Wild Mare*, won several prizes, and her book, *Animals, Nature and Albert Schweitzer*, has gone through many printings. These works and her volume of poetry, *No Room Save in the Heart*, are about nature and animals, wild and captive, their beauty and the horror of human cruelty toward them. Free's love of animals guides her personal life as well; she has been a vegetarian for over 20 years.

A natural friendship between two writer-environmentalists led to another award, and a victory for the environment. Free and Rachel Carson, author of *Silent Spring*, were friends. Five years after Carson's death, Free wrote an article about her in *This Week* magazine and suggested that a wildlife refuge be named for her friend. The overwhelming public response led to the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge in Maine, the first to be named after a woman. For this and other writing about Carson, Free received the Rachel Carson Legacy Award in 1987.

Women as role models and leaders are a theme of her life. Margaret Johnson, Marian Anderson, Eleanor Roosevelt, Rachel Carson, her own mother. In spite of their success and her own, Free doesn't deny the discrimination women face. "Women still get a rotten deal," she says bluntly. "You have to speak up for yourself."

Ann Cottrell Free's enduring voice speaks from her compassionate sense of the world beyond herself. "I've tried to use my life in a meaningful way," she says. "If you are blessed with relatively good health, as I have been, and a good education—and cursed with empathy, which is also a blessing—then you can put them to work helping others."

"I would like to have done more," she adds. She will. A writer never retires. Free continues to live her cause and to help others in the circle of life—two-legged, four-legged, finned or furred.



COURTESY OF ANN COTTRELL FREE

**Vera Twigg-Underwood '83MA/A** is coordinator for Richmond's Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia. Vera and her husband Reginald live in Caroline County with their two sons Reginald II and Cory.

**Lee Ustinich '85MS/AH(RC)** author of *Relationship Violence: New Hope For Change* (1986), is substance abuse women's services manager for District 19 Community Services Board in Petersburg. Lee's daughter Stephanie is an undergraduate interior design major at VCU.

**Wolfgang Vondergruen '83PhD/H&S** has a private psychotherapy practice in Munich, Germany. Wolfgang is also a lecturer for the University of Maryland: European Division.

**Patti Watkinson '81BS/MC** is the branch manager at Walter Cecil Rawls Library in Courtland, VA. Patti also started a support group for mothers with young children called Mom to Mom.

**Steven Watson '87BS/B** married Deborah Farmer, August 7 in the University of Virginia Chapel in Charlottesville. The couple live in Waynesboro, VA.

**Audrey Weber '81BS/H&S** is in Germany with the U.S. Navy working with the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Organization. Audrey was previously director of laboratory services with the Virginia Water Control Board.

**Denita Wickham '83MS/SW** is president and CEO at Clinical Alternatives, P.C. in Richmond.

**Carole Wiberg '87BS/H&S** completed her master's degree in business administration from the University of Richmond. Carole is also a recipient of the 1994-95 Who's Who Worldwide of Business Leaders Award. She and her husband John live in Colonial Heights, VA.

**Sherry Wood '89BS/H&S** married Curtis Brooks on October 29 in Lynchburg, VA. Sherry is a student support specialist with Lynchburg City Schools, and Curtis works for First Brands Corporation. The couple live in Goode, VA.

**\*Bret Wright '80BS/MC** is vice president of production at Jack Morton Productions in San Francisco.

JEAN HUETS IS A GRAPHIC ARTIST, WRITER AND EDITOR IN RICHMOND.

# 1990s

**Maquita Alexander** '94MS/H&S is a first grade teacher at Cheyney Elementary in Alexandria, VA.

**Elizabeth Andrzejek-Taylor** '94MS/H&S had her first child on August 9.

**Laura Anouilh** '92BS/B married Richard Gilbert in Martinsville, VA. Laura works at the Richmond Orthopedic Clinic.

**Karl Arrington** '78BA '86MS '93PhD/H&S is a research scientist at M.I.T. and vice president of Vispertek Corporation.

**\*Kimberly Atkinson** '94BFA/A married Jeffrey Friedhoff on September 17. Kimberly is a dance instructor and choreographer at Teresa's School of Dance in Mechanicsville, VA.

**Elizabeth Bauserman** '93MS/E married Glenn Poskocil on June 25, 1994 in Winchester, VA. Elizabeth is a first grade teacher at Montrose Elementary in Henrico County.

**Anne Belton** '94BA/H&S is a claims analyst at Health Care Savings in Charlotte, NC.

**Francie Belton** '93BS/H&S is a first-year law student at the University of Toledo College of Law in Ohio.

**Caryn Bishop** '91BFA/A married Mark Persinger on September 17. Caryn is a freelance graphic designer in Richmond.

**\*Lisa Blevins** '94BS/H&S and Brian Gwaltney plan to marry on June 24. Lisa is a kindergarten teacher at Enon Elementary in Chesterfield.

**Daiva Bobelis** '94PhD/H&S is a scientific writer for Wyeth-Ayerst Research in Philadelphia.

**\*Jason Bonardi** '94BS/MC is a marketing and communications assistant for the American Heart Association in Glen Allen, VA. Jason is currently writing a book, *University Greed*.

**Sherri Bouchard** '91BA/H&S had a daughter, Alexis Teal, on August 8. Sherri is owner of Little Explorers Child Development Center in Hopewell, VA.

**Diana Bren** '94BS/H&S married Dane Magoon on August 6 in Richmond. Diana works at DeJour Restaurant & Caterers in Richmond, where the couple lives.

**Andrew Brosnan** '94MA/H&S is working in a Bay-area food distribution program through VISTA in San Francisco, CA.

**Brian Bullock** '83BS/P '90MBA/B is vice president at HCPP, Inc., a prescription benefit management service in Carrollton, TX.

**Marna Bunger** '92MS/MC is a public relations and promotions manager at Brandermill Woods, a retirement community in Midlothian, VA.

**Marcella Burton** '91BA/H&S is coordinator of research and records in the Office of Development at Virginia Wesleyan College.

**Sherry Callear** '93BS/H&S and her husband Jim had a daughter on April 1. The couple lives in Chester.

**Robert Canaday II** '94MS/E and Tracy Osborne of Middletown, MD married in May.

**Matthew Chalkley** '92BA/H&S recently reported for duty with 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines, 3rd Marine Division in Camp Butler, Japan.

**Kristina Chapman** '92BFA/A is an art teacher at James River High School in Chesterfield.

**Kimberly Christiana** '94BS/H&S is currently pursuing a master's degree in occupational therapy at Texas Women's University. Kimberly looks forward to opening a practice in Richmond.

**Rees Chapman** '87MS '91PhD/H&S is in private practice in clinical and neuro-psychology in Gainesville, GA. Rees is currently writing a novel.

**\*Cindy Charlton** '94MS/H&S is a Project Y.E.S. teacher and junior class sponsor with Fluvanna County School Systems.

**Natalie Clevinger** '94MURP/H&S joined the USDA AmeriCorps to work as a geographic information system specialist for the Tidewater Resource Conservation and Development Council.

**Douglas Cogar** '90BS/H&S married Melanie Anderson on September 25 in Las Vegas, NV. The couple live in Greenville, VA.

**Wirt Confroy** '92BA/A was promoted to production and administrative assistant at Martin Public Relations in Richmond.

**Linda Cooper** '92BS/H&S married George Toney, Jr. on October 22 in Glen Allen, VA. Linda works for Henrico County Police.

**Margaret Cosby** '91BA/H&S and **Richard Holden** '92BS/B married October 15 in Richmond. Margaret works at the law firm of Wright, Robinson, McCammon, Ostheimer & Tatum, and Richard works for Sterile Concepts of Richmond.

**Penny Critzer** '90MS/SW is a licensed clinical social worker at the James Madison Shenandoah Child Development Clinic in Harrisonburg, VA. Penny is also in private practice as a therapist with Kuley, Ryan and Associates in

Staunton, VA. She lives in Waynesboro, VA with her husband Dave.

**Joyce Crown** '93BFA/A is an art teacher with Essex County Public Schools. As an artist, Joyce has displayed and sold her work in many Richmond galleries and art spaces.

**\*Donald Cumfer** '91MBA/B was awarded U.S. Patent #5,317,960 for a novel bread toaster. It keeps muffins, bagels and home-made bread from jamming the toaster lift mechanism. Donald says it works just great! He and his wife Wincy live in Cookeville, TN.

**\*P. Scott Curnow** '94BS/MC is "Mr. Mom" for his two children, Kaitlyn and Alex. Scott works part-time for UPS.

**Irma D'Amato** '93MS/SW married Andrew Hinkle on September 10 in Norfolk. Irma is director of education for the Tidewater AIDS Crisis Taskforce. The couple lives in Virginia Beach.

**R. Bryan David** '90MURP/H&S is a county planner in Smithfield, VA. Bryan was featured in *The Times* newspaper for spending a week teaching students at Smithfield Middle School about city planning.

**Bevill Dean** '91BGS/CS was named clerk of the court for the City of Richmond in November.

**\*Marc Delaney** '92BA/H&S is a free-lance journalist in Florence, MA.

**John Donnelly** '94BA/H&S is pursuing a master's degree in history at VCU.

**William Durham** '94BS/H&S married Virginia Wright on May 21 in Hagerstown, MD. William works at Alex, Brown, and Sons in Baltimore where the couple lives.

**Mike Eckler** '93BA/H&S is a store support analyst with Ukrop's Supermarkets in Richmond.

**Ann Erwin** '79BS '91MS/SW is director of marketing and development for a rural hospital in South Central Texas.

**Mette Faigle** '92BFA/A relocated to Cambridge, England with her husband Chris. Mette is assistant manager at Troon, a women's boutique.

**Michelle Farris** '93BS/H&S teaches first grade at New Kent Primary School in Prince George, VA.

**Joseph Filippi** '91BS/H&S graduated from the U.S. Border Patrol Academy on June 13 in Glynco, GA.

**\*Sean Fitzgerald** '93BS/MC is assistant operations manager at Jani-King in Vienna.

**\*Thomas Gainer** '94BFA/A and **\*Sherry Pittman** '94BFA/A were married September 5 at Deep Run

Park in Glen Allen, VA. The wedding music was performed by flutist Michelle Alligood who graduated from VCU this May. Thomas is a 2nd lieutenant in the Army National Guard, and recently finished the officer's basic course at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO.

**Craig Gittelman** '93BS/B married Margaret Haywood '94BA/H&S on October 8 at The Blair House in Richmond.

**Kalpna Gowda** '90MS '94PhD/H&S is a individual, group and family therapist at the Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center.

**Ralph Griffin III** '90C '92MURP/H&S married Karen Karrasch on October 8 in Salem, VA.

**Martha Haley** '94MS/SW married Paul Bowling on September 10 in the Vaughn Chapel of Ferrum College. Martha is employed with Hospice of Franklin County. The couple lives in Rocky Mount, VA.

**Matthew Halphen** '91BS/B married **Sherry Witmer** '91BS/B on October 22 at Maymont Park in Richmond. Matthew works at the Department of Treasury, and Sherry is an advertising representative. The couple lives in Texas.

**Kevin Hansen** '93BS/H&S married Kimberly Fitzgerald on December 10 in Roseland, VA. Kevin works for Commworld Central Virginia and is a sergeant in the Marine Corps Reserves. The couple lives in Madison Heights, VA.

**\*Linda Headley-Peay** '94BS/MC is an account assistant at Siddall, Matus & Coughler in Richmond.

**Christopher Hite** '93BM/M married **Barbara LaRue** '91BA '93MA/H&S on July 16 in Richmond. Christopher is in the Fort Lee Army Band, and Barbara works in the systems maintenance department of Noland Co.

**\*Frances Honsharuk** '77BA/H&S '91MS/SW is a licensed clinical social worker for Mental Health Services, Inc. in Butte, MT. Frances plays cowboy polo for her hometown team and is their only female rider. She had a bit part in the movie *Return to Lonesome Dove*.

**Catherine Horne** '91BS/H&S married Paul Tartabini on September 3 in Newport News, where they live.

**\*Dini Howell** '94BA/H&S is an elementary school teacher at Bundle of Joy Day Care in Richmond.

**\*Jennifer Hubbard** '94BS/H&S is a security specialist for Central Fidelity Bank in Richmond.

## ELDERHOSTEL AT VCU

Want to try some of the tantalizing classes you had to pass up, pursuing a single degree? Time travel to the Civil War, bay watch on the Chesapeake, study photography, or Mozart, or religions of the world. You might even marry. Pete Day and Elise Crate did, after meeting in a course. These are college-level liberal arts and science courses—but no tests, no grades, and no prerequisites. A typical week includes three academic courses meeting one and a half hours a day, some extracurricular activities, and inexpensive dormitory accommodations.

VCU sponsors ELDERHOSTEL courses from February to November at Richmond, Hampton, and Natural Bridge. For a national catalog and registration form, contact ELDERHOSTEL, 75 Federal Street, Boston, MA 02110; (617) 426-8056. Or call Debbie Snyder at VCU (804) 828-1525.



DOUG BUERLEIN

## YOUNGERHOSTEL

VCU's Summer Discovery Program will again offer one-week courses to middle-schoolers—our youngerhostel. They can explore drawing, computer art, the Civil War, mystery solving, aquatic ecology and other topics. They'll learn something, have fun, and finish a hot Richmond day with a dip in the pool. June 19-July 28, full-day program. For a brochure, call (804) 828-1831.

**Robin Humphrey '93BS/E** married Lane Pritchard on October 1 in Hopewell, VA, where they live. Robin is a recreation therapist at Central State Hospital.

**James Humphreys '94BM/A** married Luisa Nazzaro '93BFA/A on December 10 in Richmond. James is pursuing a second degree in MIDI synthesis and film scoring at Berklee College of Music in Boston, where the couple lives.

**Kimberly Hurley '91BS/H&S** received a Master of Science in Education from Old Dominion University in May, 1994, and married Stephen Costello in October. Kimberly is a seventh-grade guidance counselor at Huntington Middle School in Newport News.

**Randall James '91BS/H&S** is a building inspector in the Code Enforcement Division of the City of Richmond.

**Larry Jeffries '87BS '90MBA/B** is a residential real estate specialist for Coldwell Banker Good & Co. in Mechanicsville, VA.

**Anthony Johnson '90BA/H&S** recently won the Bureau of National Affairs Award for scholarship performance during final year of law school. Anthony will take the Georgia Bar Exam in July.

**Walter Kelley '91BS/B** married Kimberly Kramp on October 15 in Charlotte N.C. Walter is a systems analyst at Performance Contracting Group.

**Kathleen Kennedy '90BS/H&S** and **Vincent Curtis '90BA/H&S** were engaged November 4. They

plan a September 2 wedding in Falls Church, VA.

**Tammy Kirby '84BFA/A** '94MS/AH was featured in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* for her overnight radio talk show on WRVA.

**Adam Kohlhepp '94MA/H&S** is currently working on a doctorate in English literature and teaching composition at University of Texas, Austin.

**Stephanie Kollman '93BS/H&S** married Ronald Ezell on September 24 in Colonial Heights, VA. Stephanie works at Colonial Heights Juvenile Probation and Poplar Springs Hospital.

**Stephen LaPrade '90BS/H&S** married Crista Lembeck in Martinsville, VA. Stephen works for the Henrico County Police Department.

**Nadine Laughter '89BA** '91MA/H&S is an English instructor at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College in Richmond.

**Emily Lawson '92BS/B** married Erik Nelson in Martinsville, VA. The couple lives in Springfield, VA.

**\*Demris Lee '90BS/H&S** works at the Armed Forces DNA Identification Lab in Rockville, MD.

**John Lee '82BS '94MS/MC** is an assignment editor for WTVR-TV in Richmond.

**Amy Luckeydoo '93BS/H&S** recently completed Officer Indoctrination School in Newport, RI.

**J. Reedy Marsicano '91MBA/B** is president of American Exporting Corporation, a full service export management company in Richmond.

**\*Debra Marshall '93BFA/A** is a freelance illustrator in Richmond. Debra is currently writing and illustrating a children's book.

**Antonia Mastracco '93BS/H&S** married Jason Cook on December 10 in Ashland, VA, where they live.

**Scott Maurer '93BA/H&S** is currently working on a master's degree in security policy at George Washington University's Elliott

School of International Affairs in Washington. Scott lives in Fredericksburg with his wife Julie.

**\*Wanda McGee '94BS/H&S** serves on the Virginia Recycling Markets Development Council. Wanda is president of Animal Adoption and Rescue Foundation.

**Armando Mesina '92BM/A** married Sheila Tomaneng on August 6 in Virginia Beach. The couple lives in Centreville, VA.

**\*Kim Meyer '91BS/E** is a teacher assistant for Suffolk City Schools. Kim is also a tutor for two agencies: A Plus Tutoring in Virginia Beach and Tidewater Tutoring in Norfolk. She and her husband Lawrence '89BS/E, who is also a teacher assistant, live in Suffolk, VA.

**Todd Minga '92BS/H&S** married Alexandra Sobol on December 31 in Smithfield, VA. Todd attends Marshall University School of Medicine in Huntington, WV.

**Kimberly Morrow '94BA/H&S** married Eric DiLandro on October 1 in Middleburg, VA. Kimberly works for Suffolk Forest Products.

**Desiree Moser '91BS/H&S** is a physical therapist in Southern Texas. Desiree received an MS degree in 1993 for physical therapy from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

**T. Jack Mkwamba '93MPA/H&S** is principal secretary at the Office of President & Cabinet in Lilongwe, Malawi.

**Georgeanna Neal '92MED/E** married David Poling on October 30 in Newport News. The couple lives in Richmond.

**Edward O'Beirne '92BS/H&S** is pursuing a master's of health science at Duke University.

**Chiomu Onyekwere '91BS/H&S** received a master's degree in public policy from the University of Chicago in June. Chimoa is senior technical writer for Automatic Data Processing. She lives in Jersey City, NJ.



**Dick Ledford '58BFA/A** and his wife **Dixie** (left) meet VCU Alumni Association Immediate Past President **Peggy Adams '87BGS/NTS** and her husband **Ernest Evans**.

Student **Julie Jones** poses with her dad, **Irvin Barton Jones III '70AS/Engineering Technology** and **Robert Giles**.

**Susan Bickerstaff '93BS/H&S** '94MED/E catches up with **Charles Craven Jr. '92BS/H&S**.

Event host **JoAnne Boshier '69BS/E** at left, shares a moment with **Jane Hankley '75BS '93MED/E** and her husband **Tilden Hankley**.

**Christopher Palumbo** '94BS/H&S recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Ill.

**Elizabeth Payne** '93BS/H&S married **Mikael Giese** '94BS/H&S on October 22 in Richmond, where they live.

**Melanie Pecht** '94BS/H&S married **Ronald Welch Jr.** on September 24 in Prince George, VA. Melanie works for System Resources Corporation. The couple live in Surry, VA.

**Helen Partyka Peregonov** '91BS/B married **Keith I. Peregonov** on October 29, 1993 in Ellicott City, MD. The couple lives in Columbia, MD.

**Janet Pierson** '89MS/A is a teacher/special programs coordinator with Richmond County Schools.

**Audrey Pitonyak** '91BFA/A married **John Lockett** on November 12 in Newport News. Audrey is a graphic artist with ABS Communications in Richmond, where the couple lives.

**Jeffrey Plummer** '93BA/H&S is pursuing a master's degree of divinity from Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, PA.

**M. Douglas Powell** '92MPA/H&S recently accepted a position with the James City County government as assistant manager of community services for the Tidewater area. Douglas was previously county administrator for Nelson County.

**Leonard Price** '92BGS/CS received a master's degree in business administration from Averett College in December.

**William Reagan** '93BS/H&S married **Amanda K. McGuire** on September 3 in Charlottesville. The couple lives in Millboro, VA.

**Laura Reed** '94MS/E married **Chris Brown** on December 3 in Richmond. Laura works at Quantum Resources in Richmond, where the couple lives.

**Dean Reid** '93BA/H&S is pursuing a master's degree in public

policy at Penn State University.

**Glori Reuter** '94BS/H&S is pursuing a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling at VCU. Glori is a behavioral counselor for children and adolescents with brain injuries at Cumberland Hospital.

**Sheri Reynolds** '92MFA/H&S was featured in *Style Weekly* for her new novel, *Bitterroot Landing*.

**Alicia Rivers** '91BFA/A married **Vincent White** on September 17 in Petersburg. Alicia is an area manager at Marshalls in Richmond, where the couple lives.

**Brian Roberts** '88BS/B '91C/A is an internal auditor at Centex Corporation in Dallas, TX. Brian and his wife Nadine live in Euless, TX.

**Courtney Robison** '93MS/H&S is pursuing a doctorate in sociology at Penn State University.

**Pamela Rogers** '92BFA/A married **Todd Thompson** on November 26 in Hampton. Pamela is an elementary art teacher for Falls Church City Schools.

**Bettina Scholler** '90BS/B married **Wilbur Roda III** on November 30 in Montego Bay, Jamaica. Bettina works at the Teamsters Joint Council No.83 of Virginia. The couple lives in Midlothian, VA.

**Ray Schwartz** '92BFA/A is a dancer with The Governor's School for the Arts Department of Dance. Ray recently performed with the group in January during their winter dance concert in Norfolk.

**Lori Selph** '94BS/H&S married **Christopher Brewster** '91BS/B on November 5 in Richmond. Lori is a special education teacher, and Christopher is a lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps stationed in San Diego, CA.

**Jay Sharpe** '90BFA/A presented a benefit cultural arts and fashion show in Richmond which showcased his original jewelry designs. Jay's work has been featured in fine jewelry stores and galleries like

Henry Bendel's in New York and Cudahy's in Richmond.

**Sharon Shrader** '91MBA/B married **John Harrison** on September 10 in Fredericksburg. The couple lives in Pulaski, VA.

**D'Jaris Smith** '91BS/H&S married **Shawn Glast** on September 10 in Newport News. D'Jaris is a former Head Start teacher, and she will teach in the Raleigh Public School System.

**Melissa Smith** '93BS/B married **John Agee** on December 17 in Louisa, VA. The couple lives in Harrisonburg, VA.

**Mary Socha** '90BS/H&S is a research chemist at Albright & Wilson Americas in Ashland, VA. She has remarried and lives with her husband Brian and her two sons in Mechanicsville, VA.

**Monica Streat** '93BS/H&S is attending nursing school at John Tyler Community College and hopes to pursue a career in psychiatric or community nursing. She lives in Richmond with her 1-year-old daughter.

**Richard Styll IV** '92BS/B married **Susan Davis** on October 29 in Newport News. Richard is a computer programmer/analyst for AT&T in Herndon, VA. The couple lives in Sterling, VA.

**Teresa Sublette** '93BS/H&S is a laboratory technician for the town of Manteo, NC.

**Adam Sutor** '92BGS/CS is a specialist in the U.S. Army stationed at Fort Irwin in California. His wife

**Carol** '89BS/H&S completed a master's degree in art therapy from George Washington University in 1993. She is practicing art therapy in a psychiatric hospital. The couple lives in Barstow, CA.

**Brian Thomasson** '94BA/H&S was awarded a \$5,000 Dean's Merit Scholarship to the University of Dayton School of Law for the 1994-95 year.

**Matthew Tucker** '92BA/H&S is a customer service supervisor at GRTC in Richmond.

**Jennifer Wallace** '93MS/SW married **Robert Hurt** in Abingdon, VA. Jennifer is a home/school coordinator for Bristol Virginia Public Schools.

**Eleanor Ward** '90BS/MC is advertising manager of *Virginia Lawyer Magazine* at the Virginia State Bar Publications Department. Eleanor married her husband Wesley on May 14.

**Erin Webster** '93MA/H&S married **Harry W. Garrett III** on August 20 in Roanoke. Erin is pursuing a doctorate at the University of Denver. The couple lives in Englewood, CO.

## EXTERNS CONNECT

During spring break in March, alumni invited students to experience their businesses and professions. Enthusiasm ran high on both sides at the end of the week.

"Please allow me to tip my hat to the people who came up with this excellent idea. I only wish it had been available to me."

—**Howard Taylor** '78BS/H&S Virginia Department of Probation and Parole.

"I have a greater understanding of real clientele, project briefs, deadlines and final output and felt an integral part of the graphic design team."

—Senior psychology major **Ailsa Long** externed with **Gerald Wadsworth** at **Earl Palmer Brown Public Relations**, where she is now working part-time.

"Dana's energy and enthusiasm for the field was infectious!"

—**Karen Rice** '87MSW/SW Hanover Community Services, who worked with junior psychology major **Dana Sanders**.

"I learned more than I thought possible in a week."

—Junior finance major **Donna Newton** externed with **Cindy Gettsy** '82BS/B at **Crestar Securities Corporation**.

"We love to teach, and everyone was involved in teaching Roy how a dental practice is operated."

—**Dr. Michael McMunn** '77DDS/D Michael A. McMunn, DDS and Associates, who worked with junior biology major **Roy Caster**.

"Although it is only for a week, students can get a feel for the environment of a business and their career."

—Junior accounting major **Rajiv Malik** externed with **Tracy Pace** '92BS/MC at the Smithsonian Institution.



Event host **William C. Boshier Jr.** '70MED/E greets alumni as they enter the reception.

## START THE PRESSES!

On May 2, nearly 300 alumni, guests and friends of VCU attended the third in a series of "Neighborhood Alumni Receptions" held at the Richmond Newspapers Hanover Production Facility in Mechanicsville. In addition to the reception, guests were treated to tours of the facility.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDY JONES





## OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

Lace up your VCU athletic shoes and get out there! Fresh air and exercise are part of the benefits of Alumni Association membership. Use university sports facilities for \$25 less than the yearly

Recreational Sports Alumni Membership; call the VCU Campus Gym at (804) 828-6219. Rent equipment from the Outing Rental Center, and join Outdoor Adventure trips in fall, spring and summer, fall and spring. Call the Outing Center M&Th 12-6 or T&F 12-4 at (804) 828-6004.

### Summer 1995 Trips

<b>June 17-18</b>	Rock Climbing Clinic
<b>June 24</b>	Day Caving Trip
<b>July 8</b>	Rock Climbing Trip
<b>July 15</b>	Sea Kayaking
<b>July 15-23</b>	Maine Trip
<b>July 28-30</b>	Whitewater Rafting on the Youghiogheny River
<b>August 5</b>	Day Hike
<b>August 12</b>	Canoe the James



Call early. Trips fill up, and there are mandatory pre-trip meetings.

**Seanne Webster-Davis** '94BA/H&S teaches Spanish at the Governor's School at Thomas Jefferson High School.

**Karen White** '94MFA/A is an assistant professor at the University of Hawaii at Manou.

**Donna Whiting** '93BFA/A married Frank Brown on September 17 in Portsmouth. Donna is a graphic designer at Group III Communications Inc. in Norfolk.

**\*Dana Whitlow** '92BA/H&S is a petty officer in the U.S. Naval Reserves. She is working towards certification as an assistant weather forecaster for Naval Air Station.

**Tammy Williams** '91BS/H&S '93MS/E married Christopher Rollison on December 17 in Petersburg. Tammy works at Central State Hospital. The couple live in Glen Allen, VA.

**\*John Wilkinson** '94BA/H&S is assistant producer for "With Good Reason," a public radio show produced by Virginia's State Council of Higher Education.

**Kelli Wilson** '91BS/MC is a broadcast producer for the American Institute of Physics in College Park, MD. Kelli and her husband **Robert** '90BFA/A live in Alexandria, VA.

**Harold Wright Jr.** '88MED '93PhD/E is principal at Charles City High School. Harold was previously assistant principal at Patrick Henry High School in Hanover County for 6 years.

**\*Sandy Yi** '92BS/SW is a social worker for St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center in New York City. Sandy graduated from Columbia University with a master's degree in social work in 1994.

### Obituaries

#### 1930s

**Isabel Zimmerman** '34BA/E '35MS/SW in Ann Arbor, MI.

#### 1940s

**Dorothea Cram** '39BFA '41MFA/A on May 4 in Richmond.  
**Mary Egasti** '48BS/E in 1992 in Mashpee, MA.

#### 1950s

**John Barnes** '50BS/B on March 5, 1994 in Charlotte Court House, VA.

**Joyce Cobb** '53BME/A in Richmond.

**Edward Johnson** '54BS/H&S '58MS/SW in January 1985 in Bethesda, MD.

**John Mazza** '52BFA/A October 1990 in Petersburg.

**John Trueba** '53MS/SW December 1979 in Washington DC.

**Rudolph Wagner** '56BS/H&S on March 10, 1993 in Valdosta, GA.

#### 1960s

**William Atack** '67BS/E died of cancer on October 23. William was a judge in Flagler County Beach, FL.

**Jane Boissy** '64BS/SW June 1993 in Salisbury, MD.

**James Clark** '62MS/SW December 14, 1992 in Woodland, NC.

**Lucie Cooper** '63MS/E July 1981 in Harrisonburg, VA.

**Joseph Dunn** '61BFA/A October 5 in Champaign, IL.

**Anne Felton** '68BS/E August 1989 in Piedmont, CA.

**Robert Fischer Jr.** '66BFA/A July 1980 in Virginia Beach.

**Daniel Glover** '69BS/MC July 14 in Corpus Christi, TX.

**Charles Grubbs Jr.** '63BS/B March 24, 1993 in Virginia Beach.

**George Pomraning Jr.** '69BS/H&S September 1973 in Harrisburg, PA.

**Lawrence Walter Zinski** '69BS/S, retired vice president of Philip Morris USA, after a long illness, on May 7, at 54.

#### 1970s

**Raymond Blanch** '76BA/H&S April 1993 in Arlington, VA.

**Thomas Browning** '71BS/B May 31 in San Diego, CA.

**Betty Breed** '72BS/E August 1992 in Richmond.

**Timothy Burrell** '76BS/H&S in Oakton, VA.

**Robin Carlson** '79BS/SW November 7 in Richmond.

**Emmet Clarke Jr.** '72AS/H&S May 1993 in Mechanicsville, VA.

**McCoy "Maxie" Davis** '76BS '79MS/SW November 15 after a long illness in Richmond. Maxie was a social worker for Richmond Public Schools.

**Donald Edinger Jr.** '74MD/M '78PhD/H&S in 1988 in Milton, MA.

**Webster Epps II** '79BFA/A October 3 in West Point.

**Arminta Goode** '75BS/E January 2 in Richmond. Arminta was a teacher at Blackwell Elementary School for 20 years.

**B. Ann Goodwin** '74BS/E February 1993 in Waverly, VA.

**Llewellyn Harrison Jr.** '79BFA/A November 14 of heart problems in Richmond. Llewellyn was an award-winning set designer for Broadway theater and motion pictures.

**George Null** '75BA/H&S '78C/B April 1993 in Richmond.

**Billie Perham Jr.** '77BA/H&S July 1992 in Oakland, CA.

**W. Knox Sampson** '70MS/SW September 10 in Dallas, Oregon.

**Gilbert Shaw** '72BFA/A January 8 of lung cancer in New York City.

**Ferril Shull** '72BFA/A July 29, 1993 in Staunton.

**Benjamin Spencer Jr.** '79BS/E in Richmond.

**Dewey Stewart** '76BFA/A July 10 in Vinton, VA.

**Arthur Tomaszewski II** '76BA/H&S April 1984 in Houston, TX.

**Mary Lou Woodfin** '70BS/E January 19 after a long illness in Richmond. Mary was a retired elementary teacher with Chesterfield County Public Schools.

#### 1980s

**Calvin Barksdale** '86BS/B April 1994 in Alton, VA.

**Angeline Croft** '83BS/H&S November 24 of an automobile accident. Angeline was employed by Clark Broadcasting.

**Kenneth Goodman** '88BS/B April 13 in Richmond.

**Thomas Gregory** '84BFA/A September 16 in Richmond. Thomas was an assistant professor at the University of Richmond.

**Michael Jencik** '81BS/H&S in Richmond.

**Linda Livengood** '89BS/MC February 22 in Richmond. Linda produced the real estate news section of the Metro Real Estate magazine since its inception in 1991 and was also a freelance writer for Richmond Newspapers Inc.

**Thomas Ramsey** '83BS/H&S May 1989 in Panama City, FL.

**Robert Tabb** '88MBA/B November 13 in Newport News. Robert was a real estate appraiser for the Department of Navy.

**Carolyn Thompson** '81MED/E December 6 in Richmond. Carolyn was a guidance coordinator for Manchester Middle School.

#### 1990s

**John Barnett** '92BFA/A August 25 after a long illness in Richmond. John was owner of Floral Design studio and a devoted gospel singer.

**John Taylor III** '92BFA/A October 4 in Richmond. John was a graphic designer for Tuff Stuff Publications, Inc.

#### Friend of VCU

**Mary Harvey** January 1995 in Richmond.

#### Unknown School and Grad Date

**Juanita Gorrell** November 16 in Greensboro, NC.

**Gerald Nobles** August 24 after a long illness at Beekman Hospital in New York City. He was educated at RPI, and retired from a long career in stage and theatre. At the time of his death, Gerald was working as an office manager for the Citgo Corporation in New York.

**Marguerite Wainwright** December 19 in Richmond.

### Key To Abbreviations

Alumni are identified by year  
degree/school

#### Schools, Colleges, Divisions

A Arts

AH Allied Health Professions

B Business

BH Basic Health Sciences

C&PA Community and Public  
Affairs

D Dentistry

E Education

H&S Humanities and Sciences

M Medicine

MC Mass Communications

N Nursing

NTS Nontraditional Studies

Program/Community and

International Programs

P Pharmacy

SW Social Work

#### Other abbreviations

C Certificate

BGS Bachelor of General Studies

BFA, MFA Bachelor, Master of  
Fine Art

MIS Master of Interdisciplinary  
Studies

## Join Us!

### I/We are enclosing

\_\_\_ \$20 individual membership  
VCU Alumni Association

\_\_\_ \$30 couple membership  
VCU Alumni Association  
or

\_\_\_ \$30 individual membership  
in African American Alumni  
Council (includes dual  
membership in VCUAA)

\_\_\_ \$40 couple membership in  
African American Alumni  
Council (includes dual  
membership in VCUAA)

Please make checks  
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# WHAT'S NEW?

*Shafer Court Connections* welcomes updates on marriages, family additions, job changes, relocations, promotions—whatever you think is newsworthy. Help us keep track of you by completing and returning this form. Recent newspaper clippings and photographs are also appreciated. Please mail to **VCU Alumni**

**Activities, 310 North Shafer Street, P. O. Box 843044, Richmond, Virginia 23284-3044.**

NAME/DEGREE/CLASS

SPOUSE'S FULL NAME/(IF APPLIES) DEGREE/CLASS

CHILDREN (INDICATE IF CURRENTLY ATTENDING VCU)

PREFERRED MAILING ADDRESS

HOME PHONE

e mail:

☐ CHECK HERE IF NEW ADDRESS

JOB TITLE

EMPLOYER

BUSINESS ADDRESS

WORK PHONE

NEWS

**Important Note:** If this magazine is addressed to an alumnus who no longer lives at the address provided on the address label, please advise us so that we can correct our records. If you know the person's correct address, we would appreciate that information. Also, if a husband and wife are receiving more than one copy of the magazine, we would like to know so that we can avoid duplicate mailings. Please provide the names of both individuals plus the wife's maiden name, if appropriate.

☐ I am interested in sponsoring a student extern. Please send an information form.

# 1995-96 CALENDAR OF ALUMNI EVENTS

**Chesterfield/Chester/Colonial Hgts.  
Neighborhood Alumni Reception**  
September 19

**West End Neighborhood Alumni Reception**  
**Dominion Club**  
October 5

**Washington D. C. Alumni Get Together**  
October 17

**Family Weekend-Academic campus**  
October 13-15

**Parents and Partners Day-MCV campus**  
October 14

**Founders' Day**  
November 3

**Homecoming Dance**  
November 4

**Alumni Extern Program**  
January 2-12

**Convocation**  
February 7

**Brandermill/Salisbury Alumni Get Together**  
March 4 (week of)

**Alumni Extern Program**  
March 11-15

**Mechanicsville Alumni Get Together**  
May 6 (week of)

**Commencement**  
May 18

**Downtown Alumni Get Together**  
June 10 (week of)



**Postcard Greetings from RPI alumni in  
the Ginter House arch at Reunion '95.**

*(See pp. 16-17 for more reunion coverage.)*

Virginia Commonwealth University  
VCU Alumni Activities  
310 North Shafer Street  
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